

Tory promise of 25p income tax rate 'soon'

Latest poll heightens election speculation

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government last night intensified the electioneering atmosphere at Westminster by holding out the prospect of an early income tax cut after the general election.

Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, pledged that its long-declared goal of a 25p standard rate would be achieved "soon".

Mr MacGregor, who faced an Opposition attack in the Commons on the Government's handling of the economy as its lead in the latest opinion poll soared to 15 per cent. He took the opportunity to set out the main economic planks of the election platform.

He alleged that a Labour government would mean higher taxes for everyone and pledged that the 25p income tax rate would be achieved "soon." He thus went further than past Treasury pronouncements, which have made the 25p rate the objective without imposing a time-scale.

The obvious intended message of Mr MacGregor's remark was that the return of a Conservative government would most likely mean a fresh 2p cut in tax in the first

budget after the election.

It was in keeping with the electoral tone of proceedings yesterday, as MPs returned after the Easter recess more convinced that the election will be in June. This followed publication of an NOP poll which put the Tories on 44 per cent, Labour on 29 and Alliance 25.

The Commons debate, on the second reading of the Finance Bill, had been billed

Parliament 4 as an opportunity for the Labour Party to begin a fight back from its recent slump in the polls. But throughout the two main frontbench speeches there were never more than 20 Labour MPs on the backbenches.

However, Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, accused ministers of scarcely seeming to know, still less to care, about what was happening to the real economy.

He said that, with a general election looming, the only matter that bothered them was that there should be nothing at all to disturb the illusion of serenity which they had tried so hard to foster.

"People know differently. Their harsh existence in their daily lives directly contradicts the glossy picture painted by government propagandists."

Mr Gould said the economy was crying out for resources to be spent on training, housing and research and development. The Bill was inadequate and irrelevant to the needs of the real economy, through a combination of incom-

petence, cynicism and self-delusion.

Mr Gould promised that Labour would campaign in the election with the warning that another Conservative government would mean the extension of VAT to food, fuel, new housing and clothing.

Opening the debate, Mr MacGregor gave a most upbeat assessment of the economy. He spoke of a "real mood of confidence" in Britain.

"With steady unmistakable consistency the economic indicators across the range show that, following nine Budgets under this Government, the British economy is getting stronger and stronger."

To Conservative cheers, he declared that the Government's plans for a £2.6 billion reduction in taxes, a £3 billion reduction in public sector borrowing and a £4.7 billion increase in public expenditure were proving to be a "winning combination."

"It is a bit-trick of success which would not have been possible without the prudent and consistent economic policies we have followed and would be far beyond reach if the Opposition parties were ever able to pursue their alternative budget strategies."

Rejecting a claim by Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow chancellor, that the reduction in the income tax rate was unsustainable, Mr MacGregor said: "Let me assure the House and the country that it is and will be perfectly sustainable under our sound economic management."



Six die in South Africa crackdown on strikers

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

At least six people were shot dead yesterday as South African security forces went into action against radical black trade unionists.

Last night the headquarters of the Council of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in central Johannesburg was sealed off.

Over a loudspeaker a policeman warned the occupants of the 12-storey building, which houses the offices of several other black trade unions as well as COSATU, that they had 10 minutes to leave otherwise force would be used to remove them.

Police "baddy wagons" were lined up outside the building but there was no apparent disturbance. Emergency press restrictions limit full reporting of these events.

Earlier the police confirmed that three black railway strikers were killed and an unknown number injured when they opened fire on an "illegal gathering" of members of the

South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (SA-RHWU). The shooting occurred at Doornfontein station in a Johannesburg suburb close to the COSATU headquarters building.

People leaving the COSATU headquarters last night were escorted into police vehicles drawn up near the entrance.

The security swoop followed the expiry of an 8 a.m.

Letters 15 deadline yesterday to between 18,000 and 22,000 black railway workers to return to work or face dismissal after a six-week strike.

The deadline was met with defiance as hundreds of blacks in Soweto, Johannesburg's black satellite city, staged marches on council offices in protest over evictions from their homes because of rent boycotts.

As barricades were thrown across roads to stop buses and taxis getting through, police broke up the marches with volleys of tear gas.

Puto, the main black bus company, withdrew its services from the sprawling township. A spokesman for the company, said about 70 bus windows had been smashed. According to the police, three people were killed and several wounded when they fired on railway strikers at the Doornfontein station.

A spokesman, Lieutenant Pierre Louw, told the state-controlled radio that riot police were attacked with knives and stones after firing tear gas at a crowd they had ordered to disperse.

Four policemen, including a major, were killed.

At least one more black was killed and another injured at Germiston, east of Johannesburg, when shots were fired at a meeting of striking railway men.

Pilgrims' gift to sick child

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A four-year-old girl was last night waiting for a life-saving liver transplant in a London hospital - thanks to 450 passengers and crew of an El Al jet.

When Maron Kadash arrived at Tel Aviv airport for flight LY 315 to London which her mother, Tova, was convinced would save her life, there were no seats left on the aircraft.

Immediately four passengers volunteered to stay behind in Israel and allow the girl, her mother and a paediatrician, Dr Akiva Fradkin, to fly instead.

But then came one of the most generous spontaneous acts ever seen on board an aircraft. As word spread that Maron needed a transplant and would have to pay for it, the passengers all chipped in when a "whip round" was organized by the crew. From the 450 people on board came £45,000 - an average of £100 per person.

Many of the passengers were either Jews returning from celebrating Passover or Christian pilgrims who had been to the Holy Land for Easter.

At Heathrow an ambulance was waiting to take Maron to Kings College Hospital, where it is hoped she will be able to receive a liver in what her doctor called her "last hope."

The little girl was said last night to be in a stable condition as doctors started an assessment of her liver complaint.

A spokesman at King's Continued on page 20, col 6

Teachers reject ban on cover

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The National Union of Teachers, the largest teaching union, yesterday pulled back from an almost total ban on standing in for absent colleagues which would have thrown schools into chaos.

The union's leadership won the last day of the conference in Eastbourne back from the increasingly powerful far-left militant section by defeating the threatened cover ban, and another motion which would have changed union rules so that the 205,000 members were in future "instructed" rather than "called on" to strike.

Moderates and union leaders warned that the cover ban would have been the union's "death warrant", while "instructing" members to strike was "Mickey Mouse trade unionism" which would have brought accusations that its strikes were coerced.

The NUT and the second largest union, the Schoolmasters and Women Teachers, are still in hit schools with half-day strikes in the coming term, and are advising members to watch the clock so that they do not work a minute

Attack on far left 20

more than the limit laid down in the contract imposed by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, from April 30.

Next Monday leaders of the two unions, who represent three quarters of teachers, will lay plans for further strikes.

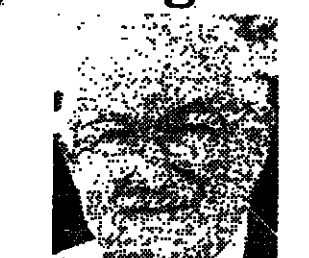
But in Eastbourne the increasingly militant atmosphere cooled down enough for the NUT conference to throw out by 117,931 votes to 99,023 proposals which would have led to costly court action, the exhaustion of the NUT's £7 million fund for supporting strikers and possibly sequestration.

Militant London and Kent teachers called for support of members who refuse to cover for absentees from the first day of absence in secondary schools and from the second day in primary and special schools.

The Government's new imposed contract requires teachers to cover for three days and the NUT executive warned that without the protection of a strike ballot the militant proposals would send the union straight "into the Government's trap".

In London, the 14,000 members of the Inner London Teachers Association have refused to cover for more than four years and may now be forced to comply with the three-day cover rule laid down in the Government's new imposed contract.

The Queen honours Callaghan



Mr James Callaghan, who was Prime Minister from 1976 to 1979, has been appointed a Knight of the Garter, Buckingham Palace announced last night. Mr Callaghan resigned as Labour leader in 1980 and is not to stand at the next general election.

IN PART 2 Urban change

Great changes are planned for Britain's inner cities as urban renewal becomes an election issue Pages 27-29

Learn to grow

Shortcomings in education and training are the limiting factors in economic growth, argues Professor Jack Levy in the introduction to today's General Appointments section Pages 31-36

Portfolio

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared yesterday by Mr John Monks of East Grinstead, Sussex, and Mr Anthony Gooch of north-west London. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 25.

Open degrees

A full list of BA degrees awarded by the Open University will be published tomorrow.

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Massive Tory lead points to June

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher was under intense pressure from her own MPs at Westminster last night to go to the country in June after a new opinion poll put the Conservatives 15 points ahead of Labour.

As news of the latest survey spread around the Commons, senior government sources admitted that everything now pointed to a general election on June 11.

The NOP poll for the *The London Evening Standard* gave the Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 29 per cent, the Alliance 25 per cent and others 2 per cent. That represents the biggest lead the Government has held since the last general election and is almost a mirror image of the 1983 result.

If the voting intentions expressed by 1,651 adults interviewed in the poll were put into practice on a nationwide basis, Mrs Thatcher could expect to win a third general election with a majority of 136 seats.

The Prime Minister will not decide on the election date until she has studied the results of the local council elections on May 7, but Conservative MPs were in no doubt last night that only an unforeseen electoral catastrophe should make her think twice about calling a June election. Some Tory backbenchers were even suggesting she should go on June 4 rather than a week later.

In spite of the latest blow to Labour's standing, Mr Neil Kinnock insisted he remained confident of election victory. "I am not even contemplating

defeat. I work to win, play to win, and always have."

He was quick to blame Labour's slump in support on the antics of "unrepresentative minorities" within Labour ranks, a clear reference to the bitter dispute involving black sections, and the "looney left".

Asked to explain his party's decline in the polls, he said: "I

Markets respond 21 think it is to do with the period we have been through in the past six months, a mixture of events especially among minorities associated with the Labour Party, and very intensive presentation of aspects of Tory policy, Moscow to some extent.

"None of them in themselves constitutes much help to the Tories but cumulatively they give a short-term boost. It is short term because it does not come from any strong faith in the Tory Party."

Mr Zaman Choudhury, their solicitor, who said yesterday they had return tickets and ample money, told *The Times* that the Mauritians, all male, had been granted leave to apply for judicial review of a Home Office decision to return them to Mauritius.

An injunction has also been granted that they should not be removed to Mauritius in the meantime.

Mr Martyn Appadoo, a spokesman on their behalf, said they were holiday-makers going to spend an Easter break in Belgium. They were transferred to immigration officers who stamped their passports refusing them entry to Britain.

They were told they were going to be sent back to Mauritius and were now in detention.

The Home Office said that the Mauritians were questioned by HM Customs for such a period of time that they missed their connecting flight. They were then passed to the immigration service.

"Neither British Airways nor Sabena was prepared to carry the Mauritians to Bel-

Continued on page 20, col 3

Mauritians held at Heathrow

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Ten Mauritians have been held by the Home Office since April 12 after being strip-searched for drugs according to their High Commissioner, Mr Gian Nath. They were held at Heathrow Airport while in transit from their own country to Belgium.

He said that nothing was found and that they had valid visas and other papers.

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Continued on page 20, col 3

Air Force attacks Tamil strongholds

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Sri Lankan government forces began to retaliate yesterday for the appalling carnage suffered by Sinhalese civilians at the hands of Tamil separatist guerrillas in the past few days. Feeling forced into some dramatic anti-terrorist action by the sheer pressure of Sinhalese opinion, the Sri Lankan Air Force carried out bombing raids in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

In the past air strikes have been a notoriously inaccurate weapon against rebel hide-outs, and yesterday no information was available about the effect of this one, except what came from the Government's own Media Centre.

The official statement said that the strikes against rebel military targets were carried out in the early hours of the morning, and that "more than 80 terrorists are believed killed and an equal number injured".

The statement conceded that civilians "living in the immediate vicinity of these targets have been among the casualties", though it described them as few. The statement repeated a government warning to civilians not to remain near such targets. "The Government will continue without reservation to attack all LTTE/Eros targets until the killing of civilians and their attempts to impede the peace process are abandoned."

The LTTE, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, are the largest of the militant groups, and Eros, the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students, has been most closely associated with them. They were jointly blamed by the

chairman of the Media Centre, said last night that the air raids were aimed as "a deterrent to stop the wanton killings." He said that the Government had known of the location of the terrorist camps, particularly in the Aitchuvail area, for some time but had hesitated to attack them because they were surrounded by civilian residences.

A fierce battle was also reported from the north, where LTTE guerrillas were said to have tried to batter their way into an Army base at Kankesanurai using two trucks. According to the official figures 18 guerrillas were killed in the attack. Four soldiers died, and seven other members of the security forces were hurt.

At Pulmudalai, on the coast 25 miles north of Trincomalee, however, at least 15 soldiers were reported to have been killed in a landmine explosion.

Continued on page 20, col 6

Phantom star leaves hospital so show can go on

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

Michael Crawford left hospital against medical advice yesterday to return to his role in *Phantom of the Opera* after his understudy was injured.

Crawford insisted on going on stage at Her Majesty's theatre in London for two performances of the Andrew Lloyd Webber show, in spite of protests from his doctors and agents.

He was given a standing ovation lasting several minutes at the end of the matinee.

The backstage drama began on Tuesday when Crawford, aged 40, was admitted to hospital for hiatus hernia treatment. He was expected to be out of the show for two weeks.

His understudy, Steve Barton, aged

30, then hurt a knee while rehearsing the star role of the Phantom at short notice. It is believed Barton aggravated an old injury.

He endured the pain to give one performance, but was advised yesterday that he could suffer permanent damage if he continued. Crawford immediately returned to the theatre.

His agent said: "We told him not to even think of performing, but he was adamant that the show must go on".

Crawford was heavily sedated to diminish severe pain, and was awarded throughout matinee and evening performances by two doctors in the wings.

He had not previously missed a performance of the two-and-a-half-

hour musical, which has been playing to packed houses since opening last October. He is contracted to appear for a year.

Shortly before going on stage, Crawford said: "Steve wanted to do it, but I felt it was unfair that he should have to risk permanent injury. I just have to go on. I should be all right, I'll have two doctors with me."

The theatre manager, Mr Ray Mansell, said that when he announced at the matinee performance that Crawford would be playing the lead role, the audience erupted in "a huge, spontaneous ovation" to the star.

He brushed aside suggestions that the "phantom" had cast a curse on the show. "We do not believe in it and,

anyway, we are sure that the phantom is benign. The people who work here are very professional."

● A hiatus hernia is a common condition which may affect as many as one in four over the age of 50 - though most do not know they have it.

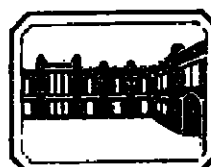
It happens when the junction linking the gullet to the stomach, which normally lies in the abdomen, slides up into the chest. As a result, the acid digestive juices in the stomach can be regurgitated up the gullet which, in very severe cases, can cause scarring of the lining.

Treatment normally involves taking things easy and having tablets to neutralize the acid. Surgery is usually recommended only as a last resort.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Soccer violence
squad arrests 17

Operation Wild Boar, an undercover investigation by police to curb football terrace violence at Leeds United, resulted in the dawn arrest of 17 young men yesterday.

Members of a West Yorkshire police task force posed as supporters and mingled with fans on the terraces. Dossiers were built up of suspects and information gained from several months intelligence gathering culminated in the arrest of men from the Leeds, Bradford, Morley, Rothwell, Wakefield and Todmorden areas.

It is understood those subsequently charged will face a special court before magistrates in Leeds today.

A team party of 28 British soccer players, apparently from Cheltenham, were escorted out of West Germany yesterday after an alleged drunken rampage in a Düsseldorf hotel.

Disaster planning

Plans for coping with a major disaster at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant were made public for the first time yesterday.

The 20-page manual, which details measures to be taken by people within a two-kilometre radius of the complex, was sent to local libraries, county and district councils, local MPs and the Sellafield local liaison committee by British Nuclear Fuels, which said that its publication was part of the company's open information policy.

The plans principally cover the 7,000 workers and 4,000 contract workers on the Cumbrian site, which takes in the Calder Hall magnox reactor and the Drigg low-level nuclear waste dump.

Le Carré
plans trip

Glasnost has opened a chink in the Iron Curtain wide enough for author John le Carré to consider a trip to the home base of George Smiley's arch-rival, KGB. The Union of Soviet Writers has invited him to make his first visit to Moscow next month.

Mr le Carré, aged 55, has previously declined invitations, but in the new, Gorbachev-inspired atmosphere of openness, he seems ready to accept the offer and arrangements for the trip are said to be well advanced.

Ulster
fears

The Royal Ulster Constabulary fears that vital repairs to its bomb-damaged stations may grind to a halt after the Provisional IRA claimed its eighth victim in a campaign against those who supply the security forces.

Mr Harry Henry, aged 52, was shot dead at home in Loup, Co Londonderry. He was the second employee of his brother's building firm to be killed. The IRA said yesterday that the firm had ignored warnings not to work for the security forces.

Web of
safety

BBC engineers who want to build a 20ft television mast at a Leicestershire beauty area have been told they will have to guarantee the safety of a colony of spiders.

The Nature Conservancy Council has designated Bardon Hill, home for 133 types of spider, as of "special interest".

A BBC spokesman said yesterday: "The tower will be perfect for webs. Many of our transmitter sites are wildlife havens."

Link to disaster

Attempts to trace relatives of the only victim of the Zeebrugge ferry tragedy whose body is still unclaimed yesterday switched to Canada after a Kent police appeal for information about Mr Cecil Naffet, aged 53, resulted in a telephone call linking him with North America.

Lawyers can seek compensation on court delay

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors complaining about delays at court have been told they are entitled to seek compensation for their clients from the Lord Chancellor's department if they suffer loss through the negligence of court officials.

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, said in a recent parliamentary answer that Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor,

will consider claims for compensation "through any negligence of court officials for which he is responsible".

The problem of delays was taken up recently by Mr John Fraser, Labour MP for Norwood, who is a solicitor. He asked about ex gratia payments for litigants who suffer through maladministration.

His question came after increasing complaints by solicitors who have suffered delays. Mr Oliver Bull, a solicitor of Stoke-on-Trent,

complained to the *Law Society Gazette* about the "outrageous" waits due to the way cases were listed.

At the county court he found five cases ahead of his, two expected to last five minutes, two 30 minutes and one of three hours.

But court officials, who had been instructed to "overlist" cases, refused to list his case as "not before noon", even though he and the other solicitors in the case had to travel 40 to 50 miles to court.

The little-publicized power of the Lord Chancellor to award compensation was noted last year by Justice, the law reform group, in a report on court administration.

In 1985 an average sum of £95 was paid in cases where the complainant had suffered loss or damage as a result of maladministration by an officer of the court.

Scotland's 5,000 solicitors have taken the first step to protect themselves against big negligence claims, by drawing

up draft rules which would limit their liability by allowing them to practise as companies rather than partnerships.

The draft rules, expected to be endorsed by the council of the Law Society of Scotland tomorrow, are certain to pave the way for the 47,000 solicitors in England and Wales, who have also been pressing to be able to limit their liability for negligence claims.

At present solicitors in Scotland, England and Wales can only practice in partnership.

But the rising costs of insurance, and increasingly large and frequent negligence claims, have brought calls for them to be allowed to set up as limited companies. Practices which set up as companies would not face negligence claims above the limit of their insurance cover, but individual solicitors would be personally liable. Under the Scottish plan, companies would have to take out a minimum of £500,000 indemnity insurance.

Propaganda
war starts
in run-up to
local polls

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Campaigning has begun in earnest this week for 12,000 seats on 369 district councils and metropolitan boroughs, in a contest which will be the crucial factor in determining the date of the general election.

With a June election looking likely, the Prime Minister will be watching the local elections on May 7 for confirmation that the Alliance surge has been halted and that Labour remains in the doldrums.

However, the Conservatives expect to lose seats overall, while the other two party groupings gain. This is because most of the seats involved were last contested in 1983, when the Conservatives, still riding high after the Falklands conflict, achieved the unusual feat of a Government in office of gaining 134 seats.

That year the Conservatives took 40.5 per cent of the vote, Labour 34.5 and the Alliance 22. In 1986, more typically, they lost more than 700 seats and lost control of 30 councils.

The Government is chiefly concerned with the performance of the SDP/Liberal Alliance. Senior Conservatives, content that they have Labour beaten, believe that the Alliance surge, set off by by-election successes in Greenwich and Truro, has come to an end.

But they fear that a breakthrough by the Alliance in the local elections could set off a further surge, which would complicate Mrs Margaret Thatcher's task in deciding on an election date.

A propaganda war has begun, with the Tories saying that they could lose as many as 600 seats. Privately they hope that it will be rather less than that and that they can then claim that the Alliance has been held in check.

The Alliance says that it expects to gain 400 seats, while it privately hopes to do better.

Labour believes it could win control of as many as 10 more councils, but is only naming Cardiff, Reading and Trafford as targets.

In theory as many as 30 million electors have the chance to vote on May 7, making it a crucial test of public opinion. In fact only 10-12 million are likely to exercise their vote, in contests everywhere except London and Scotland.

There will be more than 12,500 candidates, including 2,500 independents, almost 1,000 down on the number in 1983. Candidates include 1,352 for the Greens, the environment party, Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalists, will field 225.

The most important contests are those for the whole council in 176 shire districts, involving 8,086 seats.

The Conservatives hold about 5,000 of the seats at stake. Labour holds just under 3,000 and the Alliance has 1,300 (1,080 Liberal and 220 SDP).

The Alliance expects to turn its minority control of councils in Hastings, Cheltenham, Eastleigh, St Albans and South Somerset (Yeovil) into full control.

It also expects to win Liverpool.

COUNCILS TO WATCH

Whole council elected — present representation					
Council	Con	Lab	Lib	SDP	Other
Plymouth	32	24	0	1	3
Ryedale	9	1	0	0	8
Nottingham	27	26	0	0	0
S Somerset	21	1	26	1	11
Cardiff	34	28	3	0	0
One third of council elected — present representation					
Council	Con	Lab	Lib	SDP	Other
Stockport	24	16	18	0	3
Trafford	24	30	9	0	1
Liverpool	7	54	34	3	0
Solihull	29	14	2	0	6
Bath	26	12	4	6	0
Conington	21	5	17	2	0
Brighton	20	24	3	1	0
Hastings	11	8	13	0	0
Southend	20	4	15	0	0
Cheltenham	11	2	16	0	4
Eastleigh	16	8	16	3	0
Portsmouth	22	10	2	4	1
Southampton	16	25	3	0	0
Reading	18	22	5	1	0
St Albans	23	8	18	7	1
Harrogate	30	4	17	3	6



By Richard Ford

A group of "loyalists" (above) attempting to pull down the barbed wire at Stormont Castle outside Belfast yesterday in a protest which led to the arrest of the Rev Ian Paisley and Mr Peter Robinson, his party's deputy leader.

The demonstration by about 50 people, led by Of-

ficial Unionist and Democratic Unionist MPs, was against the first meeting of the Anglo-Irish ministerial conference since Fionna Füll returned to power in Dublin.

As the conference began in Stormont Castle on the outskirts of Belfast demonstrators attempted to cut through barbed-wired with a hacksaw.

The Loyalist protests began as Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Gerry Collins, the Republic's Minister for Justice, arrived.

Mr Paisley's daughter, Ronda, the lady Mayoress of Belfast, tried to drive a car through one of the barriers. The three men were re-

leased. Mr Lenihan said after the meeting that agreement had been reached to set up a task force of senior Garda and RUC officers.

However the Northern Ireland Office said that the conference had agreed the preparation of a detailed report.

Police await drug
tests on lake girl

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives investigating the drowning of Miss Shani Warren, found floating bound and gagged in a lake, are considering whether she could have had a chance or prearranged meeting at the lake, been dragged and then murdered.

These possibilities are among an array of options facing Thames Valley detectives in a crime without injury, motive or any type of suspect.

Detectives are awaiting the results of tests by forensic scientists at a Home Office laboratory at Aldermaston who are analysing blood, tissue and body fluids for signs of drugs or alcohol. The tests could take many more days.

Yesterday police disclosed that Miss Warren could swim but was bound with a tow rope and a jump lead from her car. A rag was knotted as a gag.

Her car was found parked near the lake with indications that it had carried only Miss Warren, a secretary aged 26 from Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire.

The passenger side was parked close to a bank making it difficult for anyone to get out. The driver's seat was tilted so that it was almost horizontal as though Miss Warren had lain back resting.

Her body was found last Saturday but until Tuesday police were undecided whether they were dealing with a suicide or a murder.

Mr Childerley said the decision to treat the death as a murder was based partly on emerging evidence which showed Miss Warren had acted as though she had no intention of killing herself.

"One assumes that if she walked with a person to the bank she may well have known him. Whether she knew him or not if that person makes certain moves she must begin to realise things are not as they should be. One would expect any individual to struggle", he said.

If there had been a pre-arranged meeting they had yet to find out who contacted her,

by what means and for what purpose, he said.

The dead girl was in her gardening clothes but always dressed up when she went out to meet someone.

Mr Childerley said it was possible the girl was unconscious, even drugged, when she was bound with a tow rope and a jump lead from her car. A rag was knotted as a gag.

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The passenger side was parked close to a bank making it difficult for anyone to get out. The driver's seat was tilted so that it was almost horizontal as though Miss Warren had lain back resting.

Her body was found last Saturday but until Tuesday police were undecided whether they were dealing with a suicide or a murder.

Mr Childerley said the decision to treat the death as a murder was based partly on emerging evidence which showed Miss Warren had acted as though she had no intention of killing herself.

"One assumes that if she walked with a person to the bank she may well have known him. Whether she knew him or not if that person makes certain moves she must begin to realise things are not as they should be. One would expect any individual to struggle", he said.

If there had been a pre-arranged meeting they had yet to find out who contacted her,

More money sought for
doctors' pay proposal

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association has called on the Government to implement fully the recommendations of the Doctors' and Dentists' pay review body.

It also wants the Government to ensure that health authorities are given extra funds to meet any award.

The awards, which are to be discussed at a Cabinet meeting today, together with pay rises for nurses and midwives, have not been funded fully by the Government in either of the past two years.

Last year doctors were awarded an average 7.6 per

cent rise but that was reduced to 5.7 per cent as it was implemented in July instead of April.

The Government had also consistently failed to fund National Health Service pay settlements centrally, the association said. That led to unreasonable financial pressures on health authorities.

The Government had made it clear that for 1987/88 health authorities would need to find the full cost of this year's pay and price increases and also an additional \$94 million for the 1986 Review Body awards.

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Mercury joins contest
in radio-paging service

By Robert Matthews

Another part of British Telecom's virtual monopoly on telecommunications is about to be broken with the launch next week of a radio-paging service by Mercury Communications, in a joint venture with Motorola.

Mercury Paging will be aiming to win customers by offering what they say is the world's smallest paging device, and facilities ranging from a single tone to 80-character messages.

Unlike British Telecom, Mercury will also offer the devices for purchase, rather than rental.

The most basic device will cost £99, and will have two tones, allowing paging from home and office. Motorola's

Car makers choose Europe for design

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Europe is becoming the key world market to influence the design of family cars in the Ford Sierra/Vauxhall Cavalier class for sale worldwide.

Ford and Nissan have revealed that their European engineers, designers and marketing experts will have the greatest say in the development of the replacement for the Ford Sierra and successor to the Nissan Bluebird built at Sunderland.

"Europe is reckoned to be the best place for developing this class of car", a Ford executive said yesterday.

Mr Donald Petersen, chairman of Ford Motor Company, said in Detroit: "Our plan is to develop the Ford Tempo, the Mercury Topaz and the European Sierra replacements through a joint programme

between Ford of Europe and Ford North America, with Europe our centre of excellence for cars of this size."

Ford splits its design and engineering development in Europe between centres in Duxton, Essex, and Cologne, West Germany.

The development philosophy will present a challenge, as the Sierra is rear-wheel drive and its America sister models are front-wheel drive.

In the 1970s car makers adopted the "world car" concept, with big savings from shared development costs.

In practice things did not go smoothly; the Ford Escort "world car" spawned similar looking European and US models, but they shared few common parts.

The "centres of excellence"

idea is an attempt to focus on the advantages of the world car and eliminate the worst problems of designing a car by committee to the lowest common denominator.

Nissan's willingness to adopt the concept underlines its strong internationalist policy. The company needs to develop a model more successfully for the market where it will sell in the highest volume.

Nissan's European spokesman said: "Our cars must have more character in the future. We have developed a new marketing policy on the basis that Japanese cars are no longer going to be cheap and so buyers will look for more reliability in our cars."

Jaguar hopes to produce 1,000 a week of the new XJ6

saloons by the end of the year, Sir John Egan, the chairman, said yesterday.

He told shareholders at Jaguar's annual meeting in London that the company planned to build 47,000 cars in 1987, a 9 per cent improvement over the 41,000 made in 1986.

Jaguar has set itself a target of pushing up production by 10 to 15 per cent a year, but building the new and previous XJ6 models alongside each other for the first three months of this year has made it impractical in 1987.

In 1988 Jaguar aims to build 55,000 cars, rising to 60,000 by the end of 1989. It is spending £50 million on automated assembly lines which will be able to build 80,000 cars a year by 1994.



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Coroner overturns 'suicide' theory by Spanish police

The claim by Spanish police that a dead woman found with her hands tied had committed suicide by cutting her own throat was dismissed by a British pathologist yesterday.

Instead, Professor Alan Usher said at an inquest in Sheffield that he was convinced Mrs Valerie Rodgers had been murdered at her family's holiday apartment in Torremolinos, Spain.

The professor's conclusions were backed up by Det Superintendent Michael Carling, who investigated Mrs Rodgers' death.

He told the hearing: "I am of the firm belief that Valerie Rodgers was murdered while sitting in a chair, and probably from behind."

Dr Stefan Popper, the Sheffield coroner, heard that Mrs Rodgers, aged 47, of Halifax Road, Thurgoland, near Sheffield, was found by her husband and son in a pool of blood, with her throat slashed and her hands and feet tied.

Mr William Rodgers, aged 52, and his son Miles, aged 18, had been for a 45-minute walk on January 8 last year when they returned to find Mrs Rodgers lying dead, a large carving knife from the kitchen drawer by her body.

There was evidence that drawers had been searched. But a large amount of cash and

jewellery which Mr Rodgers had hidden in furniture in the apartment was still there. The only item missing was an eternity ring.

The coroner said in spite of the evidence, Spanish police believed Mrs Rodgers could have committed suicide.

They based their theory on the fact that there had been no forced entry, no evidence of a struggle, the knife was from the kitchen drawer, there was an absence of blood stains apart from around the body, and it was possible Mrs Rodgers could have tied herself.

But Professor Usher, who examined Mrs Rodgers' body 12 days after the killing, said the angle of the cut to her throat was unusual for suicide, particularly as Mrs Rodgers was right-handed, and there was an absence of tentative cuts, commonly found on suicide victims who cut their throat and who make as many as 30 initial cuts before the fatal slash.

Professor Usher said: "The most convincing argument for believing this was not suicide, but murder, is the presence on the fourth and fifth fingers of the right hand of wounds which are characteristic of defence wounds—evidence of hands being flung up to protect the face and neck."

"I would also find it most unusual for a person committing suicide by cutting the throat to tie their feet. If the hands were tied as well, I would think that rules it out."

Mr Carling said it appeared a Spanish police officer with no medical qualifications had been theorizing about suicide.

But, he said, the way the apartment had been searched had the hallmarks of a professional burglar.

Mr Rodgers, who has always been adamant that his wife did not commit suicide, told the coroner that on the day of the killing he and his son were followed by an unknown Spanish man.

But he said he knew no one who bore him a grudge, or who would want to harm his family. Mr Rodgers said his wife was a happy and contented woman.

The coroner, recording a verdict that Mrs Rodgers was unlawfully killed, said: "It is clear the Spanish authorities thought there was a possibility the death could be suicide."

"There are too many factors which point against that." Afterwards Mr Carling said: "The findings of this inquest will now be passed on to the Spanish authorities. Whether they decide to open a murder inquiry is a matter for them."

Aids fear drove man to kill

A salesman who thought he had Aids shot and killed his wife, wounded his teenage son and then committed suicide, an inquest heard yesterday.

Michael Coles, aged 42, believed that he had the disease and decided to kill his family in case he had infected them. However, all he had was influenza.

Coles's worries about Aids built up until, last January, he fired a shotgun first at his son, Andrew, aged 18, leaving him critically injured, and then, at point blank range, at his wife, Margaret, aged 39.

Coles, a former soldier, of Lonsdale Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire, then telephoned his close friend, PC Phillip Bee, to confide in him.

"He said he had a problem—that he had got Aids—but I

told him not to be so stupid", PC Bee told yesterday's hearing at Stamford Hospital. "He kept saying, 'look after the kids for me... make sure the kids are all right'—and then the telephone went dead."

PC Bee dashed the 150 yards down the road from his own house to be confronted by the carnage. Coles had turned the shotgun on himself, but Andrew was still alive, in spite of horrific wounds from being shot in the back. He was taken to hospital.

Police then sealed off the house for 24 hours, in case there was an Aids risk, and police officers, scientists and medical experts returned to the building wearing protective clothing.

Det Chief Insp Patrick Munn said yesterday: "Tests

showed that we were not dealing with an Aids carrier. Mr Coles had symptoms of flu, diarrhoea and sickness. He put two and two together and got five when he thought he had Aids."

"Personal papers and insurance in Mr Coles's office showed he had prepared for the incident."

The coroner, Mr Gordon Ryhall, recorded a verdict that Mrs Coles was unlawfully killed and that her husband had committed suicide.

Andrew is now recovering at the family home, where his sister Helen, aged 17, who was at college at the time of the tragedy, is nursing him.

"It has been a great strain for us both, but at least we have got each other," she said.

Yorkshire blighted by heart disease deaths, says survey

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

People in Yorkshire, the North West and the North East are more likely to suffer from heart disease than in the South, says a Government survey published yesterday.

The survey, issued at the launch of the Government's £2.5 million campaign to reduce heart disease, shows that one in three people in Dewsbury, an industrial town in Yorkshire, die from heart disease, while in Camberwell, south London the figure is below one in five.

The highest death rates are in Yorkshire, where 30.7 per cent of all deaths are due to heart disease. This is closely followed by Northern region where the illness accounts for 29.9 per cent of all deaths and North Western, 29.5 per cent.

The report shows that, on average 27.6 per cent of deaths in England are due to heart disease, with 17.2 per cent of those before the age of 55.

The regions which fall below the national average are Oxford, Wessex, East Anglia and West Midlands (See table).

Announcing the start of a "national crusade against heart disease", Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday that more than 150,000 people died of the disease in England every year, at a cost to the National Health Service of almost £459 million a year.

He said that an estimated one in nine working days were lost due to the illness.

"One person dies from heart disease every three and a half minutes," said Mr Fowler. "This epidemic costs us dear. Heart disease brings much misery and human suffering. In addition, industry loses millions of working days every year."

The campaign, led by the new Health Education Authority (HEA), aims significantly to reduce the death toll

from heart disease by the year 2000, by encouraging people to follow a five-point plan for healthier eating.

More than six million leaflets being distributed to local authorities, health authorities and community groups advise people to stop smoking, eat healthy food, take regular exercise, consume less alcohol and avoid stress.

The leaflets are to be backed by radio, television and press campaigns. About 250 companies have pledged their support by agreeing to provide healthier food in canteens, introduce "no smoking" zones and encourage staff to take more exercise.

The leaflet "Look After Your Heart" encourages people to eat less saturated fat, to drink skimmed milk and use low fat yoghurt instead of cream.

It also suggests cutting down on sugar and salt and eating more fibre. Tips are given on taking more exercise, reducing smoking and reducing alcohol intake.

Health education units have been encouraged to bid for £100,000 for local campaigns, although the Government is expecting all health authorities to find resources to contribute to the campaign.

Mr Fowler said that Sir

Brian Bailey, HEA chairman, would attend the bi-monthly meetings between regional chairmen and health ministers, and the regions would be asked to account for progress in the campaign.

Initially the HEA had planned to spend £1m on the campaign and the DHSS had agreed to contribute £500,000. Yesterday Mr Fowler announced that the Government had decided to spend a further £1 million.

The campaign yesterday came under fire from the Coronary Prevention Group, which claimed that the Government had failed to address the real issue of telling people how to change their behaviour.

Miss Anne Dillon, the group's director, said that many people were aware of the risks of an unhealthy diet but did not know how to change it.

"It is not because people are ignorant or poor. It is simply because people eating a staple diet of sausages and chips do not know how to improve their diet without spending more money."

Detailed costed menus should be provided to show people how to switch diets, said Miss Dillon.

Carrie campaign Page 5.

HEART DEATHS: NORTH v SOUTH

	Heart deaths	% of all deaths	Rate per day	Total cost (£m)
Yorkshire	13,278	30.7	567	34.8
Northern	11,326	29.5	496	32.5
North West	14,795	29.5	606	49.9
Trent	14,734	29.5	531	45.0
Mersey	7,909	28.0	307	22.1
South West	10,556	27.9	380	29.1
ENGLAND	148,813	27.6		
W Midlands	15,360	27.4	583	47.5
Wessex	8,608	27.4	299	25.2
East Anglia	5,886	26.7	153	14.3
Oxford	5,568	26.0	147	13.3
S E Thames	11,584	26.8	497	39.0
N E Thames	10,481	25.8	510	39.7
S W Thames	8,807	25.7	298	28.5
N W Thames	8,563	25.4	430	34.8

* Includes hospital and GP treatment. All figures 1984.

Buyers told of pre-payment pitfalls

By Roland Rudd

Payments in advance mean that about £15-20 million a year is lost by a total of more than 200,000 consumers, a new booklet from the Office of Fair Trading says.

The booklet, *Don't wave your money goodbye*, published yesterday, contains a warning never to pay money

in advance, unless it is absolutely necessary.

Reputable companies can go out of business, and some rogue firms use pre-payments to cheat the public, it says.

Consumers should consider whether companies belong to a trade association which imposes a code of practice, it adds.

They should also think about whether the price can be increased before delivery of the goods, and whether there are provisions for the money to be returned.

The booklet says that purchasers should ask for a copy of any guarantee before making any decision to buy, and consider carefully before

using credit, since it is not always possible to claim money back from the credit company if the trader does not deliver the goods, or if the product is faulty.

Don't wave your money goodbye (Office of Fair Trading, free from Citizens' Advice Bureaux, consumer advice centres and local authority trading standards departments).

Sir Roy goes on a gardening apogee



By Gavin Bell
Arts Correspondent

Sir Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, pictured against the background of the museum's current work-in-progress, its new Italianate garden, which the Queen Mother will open to the public in June.

Sir Roy, who is due to retire from the museum at the end of the year, regards the project as being among the most important achievements of his 13-year tenure.

He said: "I think it is the apogee of everything I have tried to do here."

"The public will have a view

from the main entrance of soaring columns, leading through the medieval treasury to a perspective of trees and fountains."

The £300,000 garden will be named after its sponsor, Pirelli. It will feature cypress trees, a fountain and seats and walkways.

Sir Roy, a keen gardener

and the author of several highly regarded works on the subject, was closely involved in the planning of the garden.

He was particularly pleased that "at long last, those pink cherry trees that obscured the superb facade of the museum have gone".

(Photograph: Graham Wood)

IBA plea for independent TV shows

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

The Independent Broadcasting Authority said yesterday that it is considering imposing new contractual conditions on the ITV stations to force them to expand their hours of service and open the industry to increased competition.

Proposals disclosed by the IBA would require the stations

to give up airtime reserved for their own programmes, replacing them with shows commissioned from independent production companies.

The IBA also warned that all the ITV stations must move to extend their hours of broadcasting through the night, or risk the award of a separate franchise or franchises to operators who are willing to provide such a

service. Only three of the stations - London Weekend, Central and Yorkshire - have so far committed themselves to night-time broadcasts.

A third big change proposed by the IBA would force the "big five" ITV stations (Thames, London Weekend, Granada, Central and Yorkshire) to give up airtime on the national ITV network in fa-

vour of programmes produced by the smaller, regional ITV companies such as Scottish Television, Television South and Tyne Tees.

It was understood that the IBA still intends to redraw the boundaries but only after a broadcasting bill is passed, spelling out how the government wants future franchises to be awarded.

Prince feasts on culture

From Alan Hamilton
in Madrid

At 2pm exactly yesterday, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain entered the Tapestry Room of the Royal Palace in Madrid to receive their lunch guests, the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The King joked with the battery of waiting cameramen, and the Queen smiled sweetly. At five minutes past two, the King looked at his watch, and at the cameramen, having run thin on jokes. The Queen's face faded, and relapsed into neutral repose.

At ten minutes past two, the Queen wandered off to gossip with other members of the welcoming party.

By 13 minutes past two, the King was reduced to examining the inner recesses of an ornate gilt candle stick.

At 15 minutes past two there was a flurry outside the door and the guests entered laden with apologetic smiles.

But old friends can be forgiven for turning up a little late for lunch.

And when in Madrid, who can rush the Prado, one of the world's outstanding art galleries? Certainly, not the Prince of Wales, a confirmed enthusiast for such places.

But considering part of his purpose in travelling is to promote Britain, he may have been disappointed to discover the Prado possesses only six British paintings and displays none.

His serious mission faded better earlier in the day when he addressed a seminar of the British Invisible Exports Council and told his Anglo-Spanish audience, with some pride, that Britain was now the fourth largest foreign investor.

Mr Victor Chapman, the Prince's press secretary, had a less fruitful day. He was initially refused admission to the export seminar by Spanish security police because he was not wearing the correct pass, and he had to issue a solemn warning to Spanish reporters who broke the confidentiality rules of Tuesday night's press reception.

Down on the ground a few feathers were momentarily ruffled, but up in the Royal Palace, nothing, not even a little regal unpunctuality, could spoil a long and lazy Spanish lunch.

Nine hurt in car sale crash

By Howard Foster

Nine people were taken to hospital yesterday after a car careened out of control into a crowd attending a busy car auction at Southampton docks.

Witnesses said that the automatic Audi, which was being driven by an employee of the Southampton Motor Auction Mart, slewed to one

side, accelerated, and ploughed into the 1,000-strong crowd.

Three of the nine people taken to Southampton General Hospital were kept in, one of them a woman with minor abdominal injuries.

A spokesman for the company said that two children

ran in front of one of its drivers, who braked hard to avoid them but his foot slipped off the pedal and on to the accelerator, which jammed.

Hampshire police said that they would be taking no action but that a Health and Safety Executive inquiry would be carried out.

Portfolio Gold—Cash may go towards newer car

Two winners share the £4,000 Portfolio Gold prize, Mr John Monks, a Civil Servant, of Merlin Way, East Grinstead, West Sussex, and Mr Anthony Gooch, of Church Row, Hampstead, north-west London.

Mr Monks, aged 38, who is married with two children, said the money would be used to buy a newer car or go towards home improvements.

The senior executive officer with the Government's Property Services Agency said he has been playing Portfolio Gold since the competition started, but he had never won anything before.

Mr Gooch, aged 56, who is married with two adult children, is the director of Spanish studies at the London School of Economics.

He said: "I am delighted to have won, but I have not yet decided what to do with it. A good holiday is one possibility."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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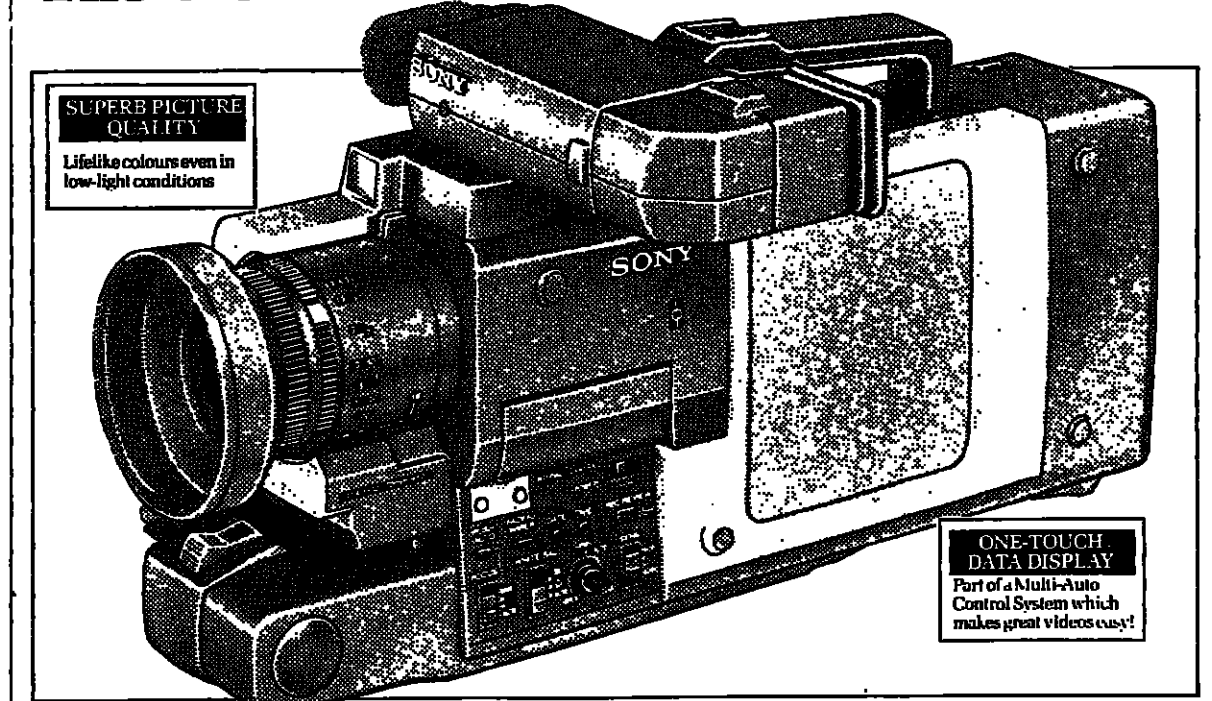
Mr John Monks: hoping for a holiday.

More treasure on lost liner

The torpedoed P&O liner Medina, which was sunk off Devon in 1917, may still contain second century Indian bronze Buddha figures worth millions, according to an Independent Television News report last night. About 6,000 items from the an Oriental art collection have already been salvaged from the ship.

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April 22 1987

Tory policy has given country 'real confidence'

There was now a "real mood of confidence" in Britain because of the Government's economic policies, and all the Opposition's feeble attempts to belittle the country's strong economic position had been destroyed, Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons.

He was moving the second reading of the Finance Bill, which implements the recent Budget proposals.

"With steady, unmistakable consistency the economic indicators across the range show that following nine years under this Government the British economy is getting stronger and stronger," he said.

The February trade figures showed that exporters were grasping the favourable opportunities which the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson) had spoken of in his Budget.

Non-oil exports were up 11 per cent compared with a year ago. Between January and February unemployment fell 44 per cent, the largest monthly fall on record, and between February and March by another 30 per cent. "We have seen the largest fall in unemployment for a six month period since 1973."

Industrial production was the highest ever.

One key test of the growing confidence in British industry was the amount of new equity being raised for investment. This would bring new jobs and higher profits. In 1986, United Kingdom companies raised £7.5 billion in new equity on the Stock Exchange, eight times the amount raised in 1979. This did not include finance raised through the unlisted securities market, which did not exist in 1979, nor through venture capital funds.

The growing vitality of the UK venture capital industry was a particularly encouraging development and reflected the emphasis the Government had put on encouraging entrepreneurs and promoting enterprise among small businesses.

This growth was another signal of investors' confidence in the prospects for industry.

In the past two years, overseas investment in the UK had amounted to almost £24 billion, but the growth in overseas assets had outstripped even this inward investment, increasing the country's net asset position to £110 billion by the end of 1986. That was the highest recorded level since the war. Nor was this at the expense of direct investment at home. As a result of this healthy position, earnings from interest, profits and dividends

were more than £4 billion in 1986.

The strength of the recovery was spread over a wide range of the economy. For instance, in the construction industry new orders for 1986 were up 7 per cent on 1985. The main building material suppliers reported booming conditions.

The Opposition did not realise that a Budget which cut taxes also created jobs. Families would have more money to spend on such things as home improvement and maintenance. The level of interest shown in the profit-related pay scheme was encouraging and was steadily rising. About 3,200 firms had already registered their interest with the Inland Revenue.

Some clauses in the Bill concerned with collection of corporation tax were building upon the 1984 major reform of the corporation tax regime. They would make collection simpler, fairer and more effective.

Other clauses included a new, streamlined method of assessing the value of land, known as pay and file.

The business community generally welcomed it. But the need for computerization meant that it could not take effect before the 1990s.

However, the legislation was being brought forward now to give people a firm basis upon which to plan.

A further streamlining proposal was the rationalization of payment dates for corporation tax - bringing companies on to a nine-month payment basis and removing the scope for possible abuse.

As Mr Lawson had promised in the Budget, the Finance Bill contained no increases in indirect taxation - indexed or otherwise - except for some minor items.

The Bill's proposals on personal taxation, in clauses 69 to 106, would bring important and far-reaching changes in the pattern of pension provision.

It was the Government's strategy to provide people with far more flexibility and choice compared with the state pension arrangements; reduce their reliance upon the state - and extend tax advantages for retirement savings.

The proposals were based upon present retirement annuity provisions. But under the new provisions, it would be possible to contract out of the state earnings-related pension scheme through taking out a personal pension.

The pensions proposals built upon and extended changes made in recent social security

legislation. They provided a better pension deal for millions of employees.

By far the most important measure in the Bill was the clause implementing a further 2p reduction in the basic rate of income tax to 27p in the pound because it would affect every taxpayer.

It continued the Government's steady progress towards the goal of a basic rate of not more than 25p and it underlined the difference between the Conservatives' tax policies and those of the other parties.

The Government had inherited a basic rate of 33p in 1979 and it was now well over half way towards its goal. The cumulative effect of income tax reductions was substantial.

The proposals had been designed to concentrate the benefits on the overwhelming majority of ordinary taxpayers and the changes had been structured so that those with the highest incomes did not benefit disproportionately.

The 2p cut would improve incentives for everyone paying tax at the basic rate of 27p. It would mean a 94 per cent of the total working population. It was also good for industry because it offered higher take-home pay without adding a penny to industrial costs.

For the average earner, the 2p cut would mean an extra £4 a week, equivalent to a 2.7 per cent pay increase.

The Government's success in bringing down inflation had substantially reduced the justification for pay increases not earned by better performance and the 2p cut would help employers in their efforts to control labour costs.

Mr Roy Mannersley, Labour's shadow Chancellor, had said recently that the 2p cut in the basic rate of income tax was unsustainable. But he could assure the House that it was and would be perfectly sustainable under the Conservatives' sound economic management. It would only be if the Opposition parties ever tried to implement their policies that the tax cuts would immediately go out of the window.

The position of the SDP-Liberal Alliance on tax cuts was characteristically confused. He believed they intended to vote against the relevant clause in the Finance Bill but they were not necessarily committed to reversing the tax cut and they would not pledge themselves never to increase taxes.

The only point of substance, a modest tax offering, was treated in an odd way as though it had nothing to do with the economy or its needs.

There was no confusion about Labour's position. They would reverse the tax cut and substantially increase borrowing. Taking into account the £34 billion worth of spending pledged by Mr Mannersley's colleagues, the basic rate of income tax would be at least doubled. That was a burden he profoundly hoped would be borne by the British people.

Mr Bryan Gould, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that the Finance Bill presented the House and the country with a puzzle that remained no easier to resolve after Mr MacGregor's speech.

It had bulk but contained very little by way of substance. It was almost as if it were a Bill relating to an economy which existed only in ministers' imaginations.

In that economy, very little needed to be done. It was on a wonderfully serene course. All that was required was the odd touch on the tiller.

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PARLIAMENT



Mr John MacGregor: "The British economy is getting stronger and stronger".

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for resources to be spent on training, housing and research and development.

Why was it that the Finance Bill was so lamentably inadequate and irrelevant to the needs of the real economy? The answer was a combination of incompetence, cynicism and self-delusion on the part of the Government.

If the Chancellor's Budget strategy had been designed to bring interest rates substantially down, was he still of the opinion that interest rates were coming down? Had he looked at the international trade and economic situation and what was happening to currencies and interest rates around the world?

"Is he prepared to say that interest rates are still on the way down? If so I believe he would be disbelieved by almost everybody who takes an interest in these matters. If he says interest rates are still on the way down, that would be regarded as an extremely interesting piece of news in the City."

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Zircon affair 'is not over yet'

FOREIGN OFFICE

The Zircon satellite affair was far from over, Opposition members said during question time, despite being told by Mr Timothy Ranton, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, that the case was the subject of a police investigation into possible breaches of the Official Secrets Act and it was therefore inappropriate for him to comment.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) had asked why, on January 26, a chief inspector of the Metropolitan Police had told Mr Alan Froese, assistant director general of the BBC, that he would have to take further instructions.

Had the lead for these instructions come from the Foreign Office? If so, had they come from No 10 Downing Street and, if so, from whom? Who was in a position to give these further instructions to the Metropolitan Police?

Mr Ranton said that if the question was asking whether the police operation had been directed from either No 10, or any member of the Government, the answer was of course, no.

Apart from the law officers acting in their prosecuting capacity, the Government had had no involvement in the police operation.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Litchborough and Saddleworth, C) said some members would be better employed thinking about the defence of Britain.

Mr Ranton said he sympathized. Mr George Foulkes, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that, despite all the huffing and puffing from the Government benches, the Opposition would continue to search for the truth of the matter.

In an article in *The Independent* on November 11, Professor Tom Bradley, a professor of constitutional law at Edinburgh University, had pointed out that the in Scotland the prosecuting authorities must take account of the wishes of the victim.

In the case of Zircon, the alleged victim was the Foreign Office. Could the House be told honestly how the views of the Foreign Office had been taken account of by the prosecuting authorities?

Mr Ranton said that he could not recall the article. The Attorney General had not consulted members of the Government, and that included Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, before advising the Director of Public Prosecutions to instruct the police to carry out an investigation.

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Chalker rejects R & D gibe

Allegations that the British Government was blocking funding for research projects in the European Community were denied by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, during Commons questions.

She told MPs that the United Kingdom believed that Community research had an important part to play in promoting the competitiveness of European industry.

The Belgian presidency proposals were still on the table and being examined.

"We are not blocking it. We are seeking to see that every penny of the money is properly targeted where it can bring an increase in competitiveness to European industry."

She was replying to Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, who said that the British Government was sabotaging the new high technology research programme of the European Community.

The number of foreign diplomats sheltering behind diplomatic immunity for offences committed in this country had fallen, and was still falling, since the introduction of stricter standards in April 1985, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time in the Commons.

He said that the number of requests for withdrawals had also risen since that time.

Asked by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Cent, C) about the position of Nigerian diplomats seeking immunity for parking offences, Mr Eggar said that the Nigerian High Commission had improved its record on parking. The number of unpaid fines had gone down from 108,000 in 1984 to 23,000 in 1986 and were falling fast. Credit should be given where credit was due.

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Spending cuts pose threat to museums' increasing success

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

Museums are attracting a record number of visitors but are threatened by a sharp decline in standards because of inadequate public funding, according to the Museums Association.

The association yesterday appealed for greater investment in the wake of a three-year study that revealed that most museums can spend only a tiny proportion of their budgets on new exhibits after meeting fixed costs.

The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind, said that the 2,000 museums in the UK, almost half of which have been founded since 1971, were receiving more than 68 million visits each year.

On average, however, operating costs took 93 per cent of their budgets.

Mr Ian Robertson, president of the association, said: "The research reflects a stark contrast in museums today, an extraordinary growth in popularity, coupled with tiny levels of investment in basic areas such as conservation, cataloguing and education."

"Our museums are a great success story and an unparalleled growth area. The public's enthusiasm for them

now needs to be matched by enlightened public investment."

The problems have been highlighted by serious financial difficulties at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

The museum has had to divert £500,000 from its grant for purchasing new exhibits to meet staffing and other administrative costs. It has cut the budgets of its departments by half.

Dr David Dykes, the director, blamed successive years of inadequate funding by the Welsh Office. The museum had almost tripled its income since 1985 to £700,000 last year but would have to become even more commercial and adventurous.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said in a recent speech that national museums and galleries had a clear incentive to experiment and raise more money to improve their facilities and services.

But Mr Robertson said museums were suffering from a lack of public investment in infrastructure and in meeting staffing costs.

"You have to spend money to make money; you have to have new attractions each

year. There are strains and tensions behind the scenes. Highly-qualified staff are leaving the profession because they are poorly paid."

The survey found that 78 per cent of museum staff were earning between £5,000 and £7,000 a year.

Almost 70 per cent of private museums were operating on under £20,000 a year, and the majority of those were spending less than £5,000.

Some 87 per cent of staff overall and 80 per cent of directors were men, and there was a strong tendency for women to be paid lower salaries. In the top income bracket, 39 men and only three women were earning in excess of £21,000.

Museums UK (The Museums Association; £70, or £35 for members).

Scotland's capital yesterday launched its own enterprise trust aimed at rejuvenating the city.

Under the chairmanship of Sir Jamie Stormonth Darling, the Edinburgh Old Town Trust will try to encourage business development, improve the quality of life for local residents and preserve the heritage of the area.



Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health, trying out an exercise bicycle at the launch in London yesterday of a £2.5 million campaign against heart disease, which kills about 150,000 people in England each year (Photograph: John Rogers).

Anger at sheikh's firework party

An all-night children's party organized by a member of the Saudi royal family has angered neighbours and led to threatened court action by the district council.

Police were inundated with telephone calls after fireworks at 1.30am lit the sky around the home of Sheikh Mohammed Al-Fassi near Fulmer in Buckinghamshire.

Some people feared a terrorist attack.

Others thought there was another fire at Pinewood Studios near by where the James Bond film set was destroyed in a blaze two years ago.

A South Buckinghamshire district council spokesman said yesterday: "This was totally unacceptable."

"Any further transgressions will be dealt with through the courts."

Sheikh Al-Fassi, a member of the Saudi royal family, is reported to own 50 cars, including 13 Rolls-Royces, two Boeing 707 jets, a Mediterranean island and a £10 million yacht.

Early this week the US Supreme Court ruled that his ex-wife could keep a \$47 million divorce payment.

A servant at his home, which is guarded by security men, off Fulmer Common Road, Fulmer, said yesterday: "The sheikh is not here. We know nothing of any party."

Manifesto pledge on obscenity expected

By Sheila Gumm

Political Staff

A pledge to tighten up the laws on obscenity is expected to be included in the Conservative election manifesto.

It is likely to follow the lines of a private member's Bill at present in the Commons which stands little chance of getting through Parliament before the next general election.

The Prime Minister disclosed her enthusiasm for the Bill, introduced by Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, when helping to ensure its 137 majority at the second reading.

That has led senior government ministers to consider promising voters during the election campaign that a third-term Conservative Government will bring in its own Bill.

Previous attempts to tighten the pornography laws have generally foundered on the difficulty of attempting to define what is "obscene". The Government helped to draft the measure widening the scope of the 1959 Obscene Publications Act to cover television and radio.

It redefines as a test of "obscenity" material that "a reasonable person would regard as grossly offensive" instead of "likely to deprave and corrupt".

Archaeology digs into £7m fund

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

More than £7 million is to be devoted to the rescue of archaeology in England in 1987-88, English Heritage has announced.

The bulk of the money will go towards post-excavation work and report-preparation on projects where the excavations were completed some years ago, but 20 current excavations are also to be supported.

Among those current projects are a 250,000-year-old Palaeolithic site at Boxgrove, West Sussex, one of the earliest-known archaeological sites in the country, which is threatened by gravel quarrying, and the Bronze Age settlement at Flag Fen, near Peterborough, with its wealth of preserved timber structures, which is threatened by land drainage.

There is also aid for the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Heslerton, North

Yorkshire, which sits atop a Bronze Age burial ground.

The Heslerton Parish Project, of which that dig forms a part, is one of the most ambitious and highly-computerized archaeological endeavours so far undertaken.

About half the projects applying in each period category were funded, with slightly more than 50 per cent of the Roman and slightly less of medieval proposals being approved.

For the first time, the Department of Transport is contributing £100,000 in recognition of its role as an "agent of destruction" of archaeological sites during road building.

That, however, is unlikely to satisfy archaeologists who have been demanding that the full cost of investigation ahead of destruction should be built into DoT budgets rather than be found out of limited English Heritage grants.

Owners oppose land 'tax'

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The Country Landowners Association has criticized a book published today which advocates a penal tax on farmers and landowners who operate "against the public interest".

Mr James Douglas, the association's director general, described the idea as "Orwellian". He did not believe it would be acceptable to the British people.

This Land is Our Land, by Marion Shoard, suggests that landowners who choose to destroy hedges, woods and streams should be made to pay for the privilege, but the tax would also work in reverse to reward those who plant deciduous woodlands, improve public access and carry out other works deemed to be "socially desirable".

Her latest book is intended to provide the basis for a television programme entitled Power in the Land to be broadcast on Channel 4.

Old barns help bring new jobs

By John Young

Grants to convert redundant barns and other rural buildings to new uses were by far the most cost-effective of all government job creation schemes, Lord Vinson, chairman of the Development Commission, said yesterday.

He was speaking at an exhibition at the Design Centre, London, which is intended to show how new firms have established themselves in small towns.

Demand for factory and workshop space in converted buildings far exceeded supply, he said. Hence, for an estimated expenditure of £1,180 a head, new and permanent jobs could be virtually guaranteed.

Mr David Davenport, chairman of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira), said that one problem was the far greater profitability in some parts of Britain, especially the South-east, of converting farm buildings into homes.

BBC takes yacht to Cannes

The BBC expects to sell more than £4 million of programmes at this week's international television fair in Cannes (Our Media Correspondent writes).

Mr James Arnold-Baker, chief executive of BBC Enterprises, the corporation's export arm, said the total cost of the sales effort at the MIP-TV fair would be £100,000.

The figure includes £3,000 spent chartering a small yacht to hold a party for prospective buyers of the nautical soap opera, *Howard's Way*.

"Everyone knows that you have to spend money to make money. BBC Enterprises is now a company with an annual turnover of some £120 million. You don't get to that size by hiding your sales light under a bushel," Mr Arnold-Baker said.

The BBC has taken 20 staff to Cannes including salesmen, to promote the programmes, and lawyers.

None of the cost of the sales effort is being met from licence income.

Malta's central location in the Mediterranean, ninety miles south of Italy and two hundred miles north of Libya, long has defined its geopolitical significance. Malta remains important to the security of the region. While the Atlantic Alliance neighbor neither needs nor seeks a military base on Malta, Western interests would be severely harmed if the island were to become subservient to a hostile power.

In May 1980, Malta entered into an agreement with Italy which included an affirmation of Malta's neutrality. This was followed in 1981 by a Declaration of Neutrality which has since repeatedly been reaffirmed. Although the West would prefer that Malta be integrated into the Western security system, it respects Malta's sovereignty and its right to pursue a policy of neutrality and non-alignment. This policy, however, should be reflected in its actions.

In the controversial election of December 1981, the pro-Western Nationalist Party won an absolute majority of the popular vote nationwide. Nonetheless, the governing Malta Labour Party managed to secure a majority of parliamentary seats and remained in power. The result has been internal divisiveness and instability.

Since 1981, the Labour government has entered into agreements with Libya, the Soviet Union and North Korea. Unlike the earlier agreement with Italy, however, those with Libya and North Korea contain secret protocols of military consequence apparently in violation of Maltese law. In these circumstances, there is mounting concern that Malta's actions in the international arena reflect an ominous anti-Western drift.

In 1981, Malta and the Soviet Union concluded an agreement providing that in case of situations that "create a threat to peace and security or the violation of international peace," the two countries will "coordinate their positions in order to remove the threat or to establish peace." This provision cannot be reconciled with Malta's declared policy of non-alignment.

The 1984 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Malta and Libya declared a "strategic relationship." Particularly disquieting is the clause which aims at "harmonizing their view-

points on political, economic, security and international issues which affect their interests whether directly or indirectly, and will endeavor to support one another's viewpoints whenever this mutual support is required." The broad scope of these provisions could be construed to legitimize Libyan intervention in internal Maltese affairs.

In addition, the Maltese government has officially acknowledged the existence of the agreements with Libya whose contents have yet to be disclosed. During the confrontation between the U.S. and Libya in 1986, Malta aligned itself with its "ally," Libya, and Maltese government leaders declared they had given Libya advance notice of the approaching American planes. These acts cannot be reconciled with Malta's declared policy of neutrality.

Similarly, in 1982, the Maltese government signed an agreement with North Korea—intended to be secret—"with a view to further strengthening and developing the friendship and solidarity established between the peoples and armies of the two countries in the common struggle against imperialism." This provided for the supply of North Korean arms and advisors to the Maltese security forces. It has been repeatedly reported that North Korea used Malta as a staging and trans-shipment center in support of Soviet strategy.

While Malta is signatory to the European Convention of Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act, it is violating both. There has been an alarming deterioration in the standards of human and civil rights which the Maltese traditionally have enjoyed.

The International Commission of Jurists has declared that "democracy and respect for human rights in this Mediterranean island have been gradually and steadily eroded since the 1970s." In 1985, a fact-finding mission of the International Helsinki Federation of Human Rights concluded that "the institutions established by the Maltese constitution do not function all the time and in all respects," and that "there exist serious violations of human rights which need to be remedied." These and other organizations have

condemned the Foreign Interference Act of 1982 as a serious violation of freedom of expression and association. The International Labor Organization has found that the Labour government has violated fundamental trade union rights.

There have been cases of unchecked mob violence against critics of the government, including trade unions, independent newspapers, the Catholic church, the courts and opposition parties. Radio and television, a government monopoly, have been used systematically as a partisan instrument. The independence of the judiciary has fundamentally been compromised.

Conclusions

The democracies of the West must view with growing concern Malta's drift toward the Soviet sphere. This compromises Malta's stability and the security of the Mediterranean region. Of equal concern are Malta's departures from its own traditions of Parliamentary democracy and the safeguarding of human and civil rights.

In this context, the elections to be held by the spring of 1987 are crucial. The elections of 1981 were widely perceived, within Malta and internationally, as fundamentally flawed and there is a grave danger that this experience may be repeated in 1987.

It is imperative, therefore that the political leadership of Malta:

- eliminate all technical and procedural barriers to a genuinely democratic electoral process—one that will both be fair and be perceived as fair internationally;
- provide journalists and observers from throughout the world with access and facilities, to help authenticate the fairness of the process and the legitimacy of the result; and
- by these means, create an environment that will encourage expanded social, cultural and economic ties with the Free World.

We call upon the government of Malta to reconsider the political and military provisions of its agreements with the Soviet Union, Libya and North Korea which place Malta in an anti-Western alignment, notwithstanding its formal declarations of neutrality and non-alignment.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Declaration on Malta

Located strategically in the Mediterranean, Malta's ominous drift towards authoritarianism and alignment with the Soviet Union in the international arena raises considerable concern for peace and stability in the region. Responding to this threat, the International Security Council convened an authoritative assembly of foreign policy specialists in Milan, Italy, November 23-25, 1986 to assess the regional ramifications of this problem. The following statement has been adopted from the proceedings and is offered in the public interest.

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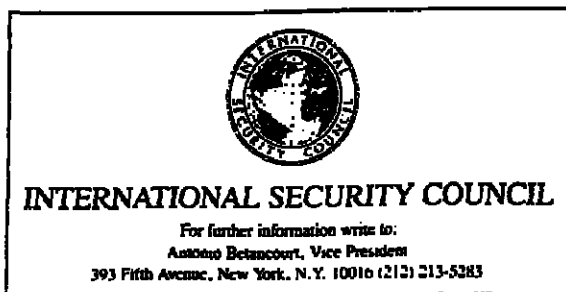
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"Hunter's father picked him up in a brand new Volvo 240. I'm getting one when I grow up."

Charles Edward Hunter had never been the most popular boy in School House.

Even Wilkins Minor, who liked everyone, thought he was boastful and stuck up.

The rest of us simply never believed a word Hunter said.

"My father's just been made a Judge," he exclaimed one night in the dorm.

"Gosh," said Wilkins Minor who couldn't help being impressed.

"What's he judging - prize marrows at the local fete?" asked Peterson, giving me a broad wink.

"Oh hang!", said Hunter, "If you don't believe me you can ask him yourself. He's coming to pick me up tomorrow in our new Volvo."

Harris, who was the school's expert on automobiles, looked up from the latest motor magazine.

"What model?" he asked with barely concealed excitement.

"The 240 GL," Hunter replied.

"Oh pack it in," said Peterson, "he's probably got that same old banger he had at Speech Day."

Hunter went a bright shade of pink and turned over in his bed. I'm sorry to say the rest of us had a good laugh.

Waiting to get to sleep, I started to think about Hunter's father.

Maybe he was a Judge, maybe he did have a Volvo.

The Volvo 240 would be a good car for a Judge. It was big and impressive and had the right sort of 'judgey' feel about it.

Later, I had a dream about driving Hunter's father to Court with three burly policemen sitting in the Volvo's back seat.

I didn't tell Peterson. He'd have thought I'd gone batty.

After breakfast and chapel the next day, we had to pack for the Summer hols.

Our parents were due to pick us up at mid-day and I was hoping that Hunter's

father would arrive before mine.

"What time's your father coming Hunter?" I asked casually as we sat on School House steps.

"Won't take him long in the Volvo. Got a 2.3 litre engine, you know, and a 5-speed gearbox."

Hunter dashed off this information with such an assured air I began to think his story could be true.

"Has it got power steering?" asked Harris slyly.

"Of course," said Hunter haughtily, "and central locking and electric front windows. You can see for yourself in a minute."

If he was bluffing it was a jolly good act. I settled down to wait - not even fresh doughnuts in the tuck shop would have lured me from the steps that morning.

At 12.15 precisely, a metallic blue-green Volvo wafted up to School House steps.



Hunter sat there grinning majestically, like some Nabob from India.

"Hello there old boy, got your bags ready?" The man in the car was talking to Hunter who had a kind of idiotic smile all over his face.

We helped him put his cases in the boot and I couldn't help noticing how big it was.

"About 14 cubic feet," said Hunter as if reading my mind.

"Just thinking how small it was," I said, as I sauntered back to the steps.

Hunter's father looked a decent sort and gave us a wave as he left. Hunter sat there grinning majestically, like some Nabob from India.

"Silly ass," muttered Peterson.

"Nice car though," I said, "I'm getting one when I grow up. Do you think they'll still be around?"

"Course they will," said Harris, "it's a Volvo isn't it?"

The Volvo 240. The classic they're still making.

WORLD SUMMARY

Drugs worth \$3m in child's luggage

New York — A nine-year-old boy flew into New York's Kennedy airport from London last week with \$3 million (about £1.9 million) worth of heroin in his luggage, police reported yesterday (Charles Bremner writes).

A customs officer spotted the boy as he was dragging a black plastic steamer trunk through the hall after a flight from London, police said. He had changed planes there after a flight from Lagos.

The officer found 3lb of heroin in a false wall of the trunk and arrested Mr Francis Momoh, a Nigerian living in the Bronx, who had come to meet the boy.

An airport customs chief said: "He said his mother gave him this trip to the United States as a present for being first in his class in school." The child, who was not charged, said he had made two previous trips alone to New York.

Poles accuse envoy

Warsaw (Reuters) — Poland accused a US diplomat, Mr Albert Mueller, of the Warsaw embassy's political section, of spying and warned the United States that such activities could hinder an improvement in relations.

The Polish authorities produced video film which, they said, showed him handing over money and instructions to a Polish contact before he was detained by the police.

An embassy spokesman said Mr Mueller had left for the United States on Sunday, but he had not been declared *persona non grata* and was expected to return. The US Charge d'Affaires, Mr John Davies, had protested to the Polish Foreign Ministry, saying that Mr Mueller's detention was a violation of his diplomatic immunity.

SS card decision

Jerusalem — The court trying Mr John Demjanuk, accused of Nazi war crimes, yesterday accepted into evidence an identity card that the prosecution claims was issued to Mr Demjanuk while serving in the SS training camp at Trawniki during the Second World War (David Bernstein writes).

The court overruled a defence objection, saying the prosecution had provided sufficient evidence on the authenticity of the document and its relevance. The defence had claimed the document was forged by the KGB, and the decision is seen as a significant prosecution victory.

Vatican outrage

Rome — The Vatican's chief theologian, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, and a group of leading Catholic intellectuals have attacked the United States' decision to issue patents for animals that have been genetically manipulated (Roger Boyes writes).

Since last week, the US Patent Office has been authorized to issue patents for animals that have been improved by man through the splicing of genes. A cow embryo, for example, that had been injected with a package of genes to improve milk yields is now deemed to be worthy of a patent.

The Catholic Church is outraged by the decision and says that it will open the way for officially approved genetic engineering on all life forms, including human.

Jakarta poll

Jakarta — Some 94 million voters go to the polls today in the first-ever Indonesian election that is being fought under the paradoxical principle of no opposition (Our Correspondent writes).

President Suharto, aged 65, who took power 20 years ago as a young general, went on state television last night to urge people to vote and called the election "a festival of democracy".

Sources told *The Times* that hundreds of volunteers had been mustered to check the official Government tally of votes in the capital.

Greek body exhumed

Athens — The body of a 72-year-old Athenian woman, who police believe may have been the eighth victim of a gang suspected of killing elderly Greeks and forging their wills to collect millions of dollars, was exhumed yesterday (A Correspondent writes).

Court officials, meanwhile, have banned three notaries public from leaving the country pending an investigation into their role in the affair. Five Greeks, including a former mayor of a working-class Athens neighbourhood, are being held on conspiracy charges.

Police and legal authorities are deciding whether enough evidence has been gathered in a preliminary investigation to turn the case over to the district attorney.

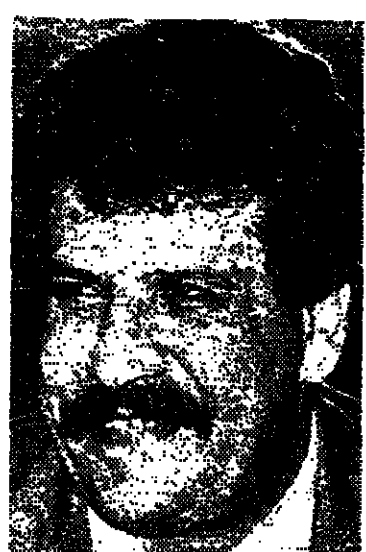
Memory of failure for Achille Lauro hijack mastermind

From Juan Carlos Guncacio
Algiers

Mr Mahmoud Abbas Zaidan, the Palestinian guerrilla chief convicted in absentia by an Italian court for masterminding the hijack of the Achille Lauro cruise liner in 1985, is the kind of man who evidently likes to think positively.

Accused of being one of the world's most vicious terrorists, Mr Abbas can hardly disguise his satisfaction at the notoriety he has earned and claims amid chuckles: "The American propaganda has actually helped us." More and more Palestinians in Lebanon, he says, are joining his faction, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), one of the groups forming the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Mr Abbas, who is better known by his code-name of Aboul Abbas, also admits that his status has disadvantages. "I am afraid of myself every time I read the Western press," he said during an interview with *The Times* over a four-course lunch at his villa near the Club des Pins, where the



Aboul Abbas: "Hijack was an incomplete work." Palestine National Council — the Palestinian parliament in exile — is holding its first session in three years. "It is like being (the protagonist)

in a horror movie, just like Hitchcock," he quipped with an enigmatic grin. "But it's all propaganda, all untrue," he said.

Mr Abbas does not particularly enjoy discussing his role in the Achille Lauro affair, mostly because he regards it as an operation that ended in disaster. Although failure is nothing new to his often dishevelled guerrilla campaign — the PLF has resorted on two occasions to using hang-gliders in doomed attempts to infiltrate guerrillas into Israel — Mr Abbas said he hoped all Palestinian guerrillas should have learned something out of that episode: never make mistakes.

The Italian cruise liner was seized by PLF guerrillas after they were accidentally discovered on board.

The hijackers were in command of the ship for several days and ended up killing Mr Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly crippled Jewish New Yorker whose body and wheelchair were later thrown into the sea. The hijackers were captured and are imprisoned in Italy after US jets intercepted an Egyptian airliner and

forced it to land in Sicily. Mr Abbas and two of his associates were allowed to go free by the Italians, but three other Palestinians received lengthy sentences from a Genoa court. Italy later changed its mind and sentenced Mr Abbas and his two lieutenants in absentia to life imprisonment.

Mr Abbas described the whole affair as an "incomplete work" and said his men were to pay the price of their mistakes. "Whoever makes a mistake should be in prison. That way the others will learn not to make any mistakes in the future."

Mr Abbas is introduced to reporters by a loquacious young man who acts as his translator and who takes particular pleasure in presenting his boss with a unique kind of formality: "This is Mr Abbas, the terrorist. Mr Abbas, this is a spy."

Dressed in a grey business suit and a brand new burgundy tie, Mr Abbas certainly does not play the role of "Mr Terrorism", but rather gives the impression of an overgrown naughty boy. He claims that recently he had a

meeting with Abu Nidal, the foremost figure of international terrorism. He would not say where the meeting took place nor what had been discussed. "I saw him two months ago," he said, not inviting further questioning.

An active parliamentarian of the PLO, Mr Abbas appears to be more concentrated in the complex political realities of the PLO, now starting the strategy of unification after four years of internal turmoil. He is equally keen to condemn anti-Israeli guerrilla attacks outside Israel.

"There is no plan to make operations in Europe," he said. Unlike Abu Nidal, whose men killed 21 people in Vienna and Rome airports in 1985, Mr Abbas thinks that the struggle for a Palestinian homeland should be concentrated inside Israeli-occupied territory and Israel itself.

This strategy is made abundantly clear when Mr Abbas is asked where he is living at the moment: "I should be in Palestine. They threw me out. I looked for another homeland but I could not find it."

Supreme Court to suspend rights trials in Argentina

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

The Argentine Supreme Court was reported yesterday to be preparing an order to suspend all human rights trials of military officers for a period of at least two to three weeks.

The court on Tuesday ordered the indefinite postponement of a trial in which Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz and more than 20 other Navy officers are accused of illegal detentions and torture at the Navy Mechanical School during the former military regime's fight against terrorism. The court ordered the suspension in order to review complaints filed by defence lawyers.

The trial, which was scheduled to begin today, had been anxiously awaited by human rights groups and had caused widespread discontent within

Spain's Deputy Prime Minister, Señor Alfonso Guerra, will visit Argentina next month to express his country's support for President Alfonsín in the wake of continued military unrest there (Reuters reports from Madrid).

The Navy, a Federal Appeals Court in Córdoba on Monday delayed further hearings of pending human rights trials in its jurisdiction for a 10-day period, but other cases have continued in both La Plata and Bahía Blanca, south of the capital, as well as in Mendoza, near the Chilean border.

Lieutenant Astiz, who gave himself up to British forces on the South Georgia Islands at the beginning of the Falklands war without firing a shot, was cleared last December of charges that he had kidnapped and wounded Dagmar Hagelin, a Swedish-Argentine woman who became one of the more than 10,000 people to disappear during the 1976-83 dictatorship. Lieutenant Astiz has also been acquitted in two other cases of human rights violations.

Political observers here speculated that the Supreme Court would order the suspension of the trials, in which more than 200 military officers are implicated, so that it could rule on the concept of due obedience. The court is expected to decide to what extent middle and lower ranking police and military officers can be held responsible for illegal acts they carried out under orders from their superiors.

PLO hardline on Western Sahara Hassan enraged by Palestinian snub

From Susan MacDonald
Marrakesh

King Hassan of Morocco has reacted angrily to what he considers to be a severe snub to Morocco by Algeria and by the Palestine Liberation Organization at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers.

In an unusual televised speech on Tuesday night, the King described how the day before, the Moroccan delegation had walked out of a session of the Palestinian parliament in exile when a delegation from the Polisario Front, led by its leader, Mr Muhammad Abdelaziz, entered in style.

Polisario guerrillas are fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara. Morocco has just finished building the final section of a series of defensive walls intended to keep the guerrillas out of the area and deny them access to the Atlantic. There has been serious fighting recently between Polisario and Moroccan troops along the fortified wall.

In a voice often breaking with rage, the King stated that Morocco had been assured by the PLO that the Polisario Front had not been invited. However, after President Chadli of Algeria had left the conference, "the mercenary Abdelaziz", as the King styled him, made a surprise entry with a group of journalists.

The Moroccan delegation immediately walked out and was followed by some PLO delegates who apologized, saying that the incident had been set up by Algeria.



Mr Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, the PLO's deputy military chief (left), talking to Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, at the council session in Algiers yesterday.

Then, said the King, to add insult to injury, after Mr Abdelaziz had been hugged by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and seated on his left, Morocco were akin to the

he made a speech saying that the Polisario Front had been invited by the PLO, and that their sufferings at the hands of Morocco were akin to the

It was apparently the fact of being likened to the Israelis that enraged the King most.

Pentagon uncovers secret army fund for rebels

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

The Pentagon has discovered that a secret Army intelligence unit called "Yellow Fruit" set up a Swiss bank account that may later have been used illegally to finance arms for the Nicaraguan Contras.

A senior Pentagon official announced the discovery in a briefing for journalists. It appears that those with access to

the account included Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the former National Security Council official, and retired Major-General Richard Secord. Both are key figures in the Iran-Contra scandal.

The official, who called the account at Credit Suisse bank "highly unusual" and "unauthorized", could not say whether any Pentagon money was channelled through the account during the period

between October 1984 and October 1986, when most direct US military aid to the rebels was prohibited by Congress.

According to CBS News, whose inquiries about the account led to internal Pentagon inquiries which subsequently uncovered it, \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) was withdrawn from the account in one day in 1985. The "Yellow Fruit" unit

operated as a front company called Business Security International. It carried out counter-intelligence and security tasks for secret army missions, including electronic eavesdropping operations against guerrillas in Central America.

It was headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Dale Duncan, who was convicted last year of submitting fraudulent expense claims.

Counsels of caution as missile offer causes split on Capitol Hill

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Enthusiasm for a Euro-missile agreement with the Soviet Union is being tempered by increasingly sharp warnings from senior Democrats and some Republicans that the Reagan Administration may be moving too fast to strike an agreement.

A split has emerged among Democratic leaders about the wisdom of a total withdrawal of both intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles from Europe. Mr Robert Dole, the Senate Republican leader, also broke ranks with the White House in urging caution in dealing with Moscow.

Democratic and Republican congressional leaders met Mr Reagan yesterday to receive a briefing on possible responses to the Soviet proposals. Mr Robert Byrd, the Senate Democratic leader, sounded the loudest dissent and suggested that President Reagan might be pursuing an agreement to sidetrack his political problems.

"I would caution the Administration against rushing into an agreement which is cosmetically attractive but at bottom works against the cohesion and the steadfastness of the Atlantic alliance," he said in the Senate.

But Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, enthusiastically endorsed the Soviet offer. "The opportunity for a truly meaningful agreement is better today than at any time in the history of US-Soviet relations."

Despite the soundings of caution, there is every expectation among congressional leaders that Mr Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, will meet in late summer in Washington to sign

a Euro-missile deal. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has urged the allies to be ready to present a united response to the Soviet Union within a few weeks, a deadline that appears to have angered many European leaders.

Verification will be the key issue at the Geneva talks on intermediate-range missiles, which resume today. The Reagan Administration has proposed an intrusive monitoring system that will provide for "cradle to grave" monitoring procedures for mobile and other missiles. Data would be exchanged on current inventories and procedures would be devised for the dismantlement, destruction or conversion of existing missiles.

The big problem for the West is that of "hidden" inventories. One senior Administration official said the number of hidden Soviet SS20s could be as high as 400, nearly equalling the 441 whose location is known.

GENEVA: No trace of Washington's recent extreme optimism on prospects for an early US-Soviet accord on medium-range nuclear missiles was detectable in a statement yesterday by Mr Maynard Gittman, the American negotiator (Alan McGragger writes).

While "useful progress" had been made during Mr Shultz's visit to Moscow last week, he said, "difficult issues remain and much hard work lies ahead. Our effort will be directed to producing a sound and durable intermediate-range missiles agreement, not to meeting a timetable."

The US would ensure that an INF agreement enhanced the security of the US and its allies.

The memoirs of Lech Walesa

Solidarity leader considers his destiny

From Diana Geddes, Paris

"What will be my eventual destiny?" Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the outlawed Polish free trade union movement and Nobel Peace Prize winner, asks in his autobiography, smuggled out to the West and published in France today.

Fate had recently accorded him a lot of good things, he says, but there was a time when he had received many hard blows. He said: "Now, everything could change again. I don't know: someone could come and shoot me in the head or strangle me."

"My final fate? Nothing requires it to be particularly good. In that case, one could say that although a lot of people have helped me, I myself have managed despite everything to accomplish a little something."

It is that "little something" which is the true subject of his 600-page memoirs, he says. "Beyond my own personality, I would like this book to portray the image of a movement which expresses the deepest aspirations of my generation and which still remains the hope of the Polish people — Solidarity."

He sees two possible scenarios for the future. "If the country and its people remain stuck in an impasse, if nothing is done to satisfy the daily needs and aspirations of the people, then the discontent and desire to fight will overcome the feelings of resignation and despair, and Solidarity will see a second birth, whether it be in one day or in 10 years."

However, "if the Government continues the action it has already begun with the liberation of political prisoners, and if



Mr Claude Durant, the publisher, presenting A Path of Hope.

it decides to begin a process of democratization and to recognize legitimate rights of workers to promote the intervention of the Church, in the long term all that could reply to our aspirations and

breathe back life into the Gdansk accords (signed between Solidarity and the Government in August 1981).

Mr Walesa says he often wonders whether the time has not come to relinquish his role as the leader of the outlawed movement, a role which he claims he never sought but which was thrust upon him.

He expresses his fear that fate may make him and his family pay dearly one day for the celebrity he has won. But he feels a sense of duty to "persevere", as he puts it, particularly as he does not see many volunteers rushing to take his place as the "number one".

Referring to his strong belief in God, Mr Walesa said that as a child, he "sucked faith with the milk at my mother's breast". Then, as a young adult, he drew away from religion and trusted more in his own star. But later on, faith returned through the Catholic Church.

"Those are the notions which, together with my own instinct, have determined the turning points of my life, and until now have spared me from the worst catastrophes," he writes.

However, the "spiritual equilibrium" he has achieved does not always prevent him from succumbing to fear. "All kinds of fear — fear of suffering, fear of not having enough time, fear of expressing myself badly, fear of not doing things well enough, fear of death." He regards life as being on a kind of lease: "If one accepts that one is just the temporary holder of the diverse benefits of life, it is easier to prevent oneself from losing one's head or abandoning oneself to despair."

Moscow admits soil radiation level is high near Chernobyl

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A Soviet expert has admitted that radioactive contamination of soil around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant remains at higher than admissible levels and is unlikely to change. The admission comes amid continuing disagreement about the current estimates of the cancer deaths from radiation from Chernobyl.

The soil conditions were described yesterday by General Vladimir Piskalov, commander of the Soviet Defence Ministry's chemical forces, who took part in the decontamination of Chernobyl after one of the plant's four reactors exploded last April.

But he dismissed Western estimates of thousands of cancer deaths from the accident as groundless. Commenting on the radiation situation around the Ukrainian power station a year after the world's worst civilian nuclear accident, the general told the Novosti press agency: "Today, higher than admissible readings of soil contamination with long-living radionuclides (cesium, strontium, plutonium) are registered mostly on the territory of the station and in the five-kilometre (three-mile) zone

around it, as well as in several pockets on the territory of Byelorussia.

"There are no grounds for expecting any radical changes in the current radiation situation, since soil radioactivity flushing by flood waters has not exceeded 1 per cent."

General Piskalov did not specify the depth of the soil contamination problem. To prevent contamination of water supplies, workers have been removing 20 inches of topsoil from the entire 18-mile security zone around the plant.

The general said analysis of radiation received by the local population showed their total exposure for 1986 was less than the maximum yearly admissible dose.

He said the number of cancer deaths from Chernobyl radiation exposure would be less than 0.05 per cent of the normal cancer mortality rate. Cancer deaths from eating contaminated food would be 0.4 per cent of the normal death rate.

The general was apparently referring to fatalities within the Soviet Union. He gave no figures for the pre-Chernobyl cancer death rate. "Given all this objective data, speculation in the West

that 50,000 people will die of cancer in Europe within the next few years must be dismissed as totally groundless," he was quoted as saying.

Dr Robert Gale, the American bone marrow transplant expert who treated victims of the Chernobyl disaster, has said that 2,500 to 75,000 people will die of cancer linked to the accident, with at least half of the deaths outside the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, new estimates of the number of long-term cancers from the Chernobyl accident will be made later this year when the safety levels for exposure to radiation are revised by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

At informal meetings the experts are already discussing a tightening of safety standards, which would cut the permitted levels of exposure to radiation by a factor of five.

But this would mean that calculations of long-term fatalities in Western and Eastern Europe from the Chernobyl radiation would rise to more than 50,000 due to extra cancers, or about two to three times above normal levels. Non-fatal cancers, mainly thyroid disorders, would increase by a similar amount.

US ruling extends death penalty

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Supreme Court, in a decision that may lead to much wider use of the death penalty, has ruled five to four that some accomplices in crimes leading to fatality may be given the death penalty even if they neither personally killed nor intended to kill.

The decision on Tuesday involved two brothers who took part in a 1978 Arizona kidnapping but who were not aware that the victims would

be killed and were near by when their father did the killing.

Lawyers forecast that the ruling would allow a much wider use of the death penalty in most of the 37 states of the country that have capital punishment laws.

The Supreme Court stopped short of directly upholding the death sentences imposed by Arizona courts on Ricky Tison and his brother Ray-

mond, and sent the case back for further proceedings.

The ruling substantially undercuts a 1982 decision in which the Supreme Court had ruled out the execution of a defendant whose only role was to drive a getaway car after a murder.

That ruling appeared to bar the execution of anyone but the person who actually committed the murder in cases such as armed robbery,

Iran jails American for spying

Nicosia (AP) — An Iranian court has sentenced an American who confessed to spying for the CIA to 10 years in jail, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

Jon Patis, aged 50, was arrested in June 1986 while working for an American firm, Cosmos Engineers, as a telecommunications project engineer at the Asadabad communications centre, 200 miles south-west of Tehran. He was held after an Iraqi air raid temporarily knocked out Iran's communications with the outside world.

In an interview broadcast by Iran's state television in October, Patis confessed that he spied for the CIA. He said he provided information on the Asadabad centre and a warning system that was supposed to protect it against attacks.

He said he also provided information on military activity, economic developments and oil production. Altogether, he faced seven charges linked to spying and using a forged passport.

Patis said he worked in Iran as a telecommunications expert from 1969 to 1979, the year that more than 50 Americans were taken hostage at the US Embassy in Tehran.

He said he returned in 1984, 1985 and 1986, the last time using a forged Iranian passport and the name of Giovanni Patis.

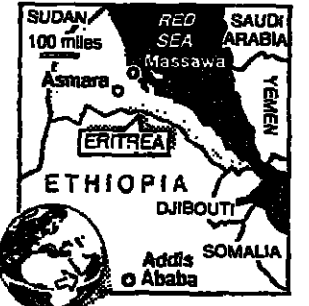
A British businessman, Mr Roger Cooper, has been held in Tehran since December 1985 on spying charges.



Rescuers pulling a 14-year-old named only as Nathalie from underground chalk quarries in north France early yesterday where she and four others had been lost overnight. Rescuers found them after following a trail left by biscuits.

Armed peace reigns as rebels lie low in Eritrea

Eritrea, in northern Ethiopia, is the scene of Africa's longest-running civil war, now more than 25 years old. Charles Harrison reports on the situation in the Red Sea port of Massawa and in Asmara, once the capital of Italian Eritrea and centre of the struggle between Ethiopia and the Eritrean rebels.



The 70-mile road from Asmara, in the Eritrean highlands, to the Red Sea port of Massawa is closely guarded by Ethiopian soldiers, under orders to protect this strategic route from the rebels who have been in Eritrea for the past 25 years.

Observation posts top the hills on both sides of the road, and military checkpoints search and document all vehicles. The road itself is an engineering marvel, falling more than 7,000 ft in hairpin bends which cling to the mountainside, giving breathtaking views over some of Africa's most spectacular scenery. It is ideal guerrilla country.

The railway line built by the Italians when they occupied Eritrea is another engineering marvel, with spectacular viaducts and tunnels through the rock. But it was abandoned 12 years ago after repeated rebel attacks.

Much of the single rail line remains in position, but many

sections have disappeared. Railway stations near the road are shattered ruins, evidence of the ferocity of guerrilla attacks.

The little port of Massawa, with a single quay capable of handling four or five ships at a time, was besieged and cut off in 1977 and 1978, when the rebels occupied the mainland facing Massawa island.

Today the causeway linking the island and the mainland is guarded by Ethiopian troops. The port is clean and tidy — remarkably so for an African port — and appears to be efficiently run. A Panamanian cargo ship and two Ethiopian freighters are unloading, and a pile of Russian containers lie stacked waiting for transport back to the Soviet Union.

Massawa island was a Turkish outpost for hundreds of years until early in the 19th century. Port buildings and the impressive governor's palace, all well preserved, are in classic Turkish style. A statue of Emperor Haile

Selassie, who was overthrown in 1974, stands in front of the main port building, shrouded in sackings. But the sackings have rotted, revealing again the features of Ethiopia's last Emperor.

A convoy of oil-tanker lorries toils up the twisting mountain road towards Asmara, with an army escort preceding it. There is nothing to show where the rebels are, but the old telephone lines, hanging limply, are evidence of past guerrilla activity.

The centre of Asmara, Ethiopia's second-largest city, is completely Italian in atmosphere, testimony to Melesse's colonizing zeal. A massive Roman Catholic cathedral dominates the Via Nazionale (now known simply as the main street), where

cafés and bars are crowded in the evening. Today there are few if any Italians to be seen (though there are still about 300 of them here), but Italian is still quite widely understood and spoken.

With a population of half a million, Asmara is an important industrial centre, as well as the centre for agricultural production. Unemployment is high, as the many ragged young beggars and hawkers, selling chewing gum and cigarettes, or offering to shine your shoes, testify.

Shops in the centre of Asmara are remarkably well stocked, often with expensive imported goods, giving a false picture of prosperity that is not seen in the capital, Addis Ababa.

The markets are well stocked with food of all kinds, including food aid which has found its way on to the commercial market. But there is no obvious sign here of the disastrous famine which hit this part of Ethiopia two years ago.

Heavily-sandbagged observation posts stand alongside the telephone office and other key buildings. Asmara airport is busy, with regular flights to Addis Ababa

and other centres. As everywhere in Ethiopia security is tight, and all passengers and their baggage are searched. Tourists with cameras must take a picture under the eyes of security guards to demonstrate that the cameras do not contain explosives.

MIG jet fighters and helicopter gunships line the military section of the airport. Only a few months ago a daring rebel penetrated the defences and blew up 22 aircraft with a rocket-launcher before killing himself.

The road inland from Asmara is now open as far as Korez, and supplies of relief food can move there. But much of the rest of Eritrea is under at least partial rebel control.

At the moment there is a lull in the fighting. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the main guerrilla group, says it is waiting for an expected offensive by the Ethiopian Army and Air Force.

In a few weeks, Eritrea, like other areas of Ethiopia, is due to have elections for the new civilian Parliament, to be known as the Shengo. But outside the areas firmly in Government control the prospects for realistic elections are doubtful.

Growing violence in Sri Lanka

Aims behind the Tamil terror attacks

From Michael Hamlyn Colombo

The series of terrorist atrocities in Sri Lanka which has left around 250 people dead in the past few days has two objectives, according to a senior minister.

Mr Lalith Athanathumudali, the Minister for National Security, explained yesterday that the terrorists' aim was first to weaken the Government and thus gain concessions in any subsequent negotiations. "Secondly, they want to create a backlash," he said. "That would so damage the reputation of the Sri Lankan Government, that people would begin to say that the two communities can no more live together." Separation would then be the only answer.

The response to the killing of the past few days has been confined to action by the armed forces, such as yesterday's air raid on targets in the north of the island. Disciplined action by the armed forces and police and the immediate imposition of curfew in the affected areas so far has prevented anything like the communal violence of July 1983.

"People also have a greater understanding," Mr Athanathumudali added.

Certainly, the armed forces have shown much better discipline than in 1983, when they simply turned a blind eye to what was going on. Afterwards a series of bloody reprisals on innocent Tamil villagers, often carried out against orders, blackened the name of the Sri Lankan forces. But this problem has largely been overcome, the authorities claim.

The strength of the Army has grown from less than 10,000, mainly experienced in ceremonial parades, to almost 40,000, the majority of whom have seen action against the Tamil separatist rebels. Some have been trained in Pakistan, with a few officers attending courses in India.

Trouble between the Tamils, who are mainly Hindu and form about one-fifth of the island's population, and the majority Sinhalese who are mainly Buddhist, began at independence in 1948.

British colonialists had employed large numbers of the minority race, who learned English enthusiastically and made an industry out of government service. The Tamil preponderance in education and government was resented by the Sinhalese.

Both races came to the island from India, though there is considerable dispute about who came first. The Tamils are of Dravidian, South Indian, stock, smaller, darker and round-headed. The Sinhalese claim descent from the Aryans of north-east India.

But one of the first acts of the independent Government was to disenfranchise those Tamils who came most re-

cently from India, brought by the British to work as coolies in the tea plantations.

Then, despite an entrenched clause in the constitution left by the British, the Government, dominated by the majority, moved in other ways

Sinhalese acted like a minority who feared swamping

against the minority. A new constitution was drawn up without the entrenched clause, and a single language formula was framed. The only official language was to be Sinhala.

From now on Tamils found it more and more difficult to enter the armed forces, for example, or other government services because of the Sinhala-only requirement.

Then the Tamil dominance in education was ended by creating regional differential requirements for university places which operated to their disadvantage.

Feeling themselves under serious attack, the Tamils demanded the kind of protection a minority community gains from a federal system of government with a good deal of regional autonomy. They formed a Federal Party but their aspirations were constantly frustrated.

Had the Tamils thrown themselves more wholeheartedly into the new society, and not looked so often at the massive Tamil community in south India, perhaps the Sinhalese would not have been so fearful themselves.

But the Sinhalese reacted like a minority who feared swamping by the 50 million Tamils in Madras. They feared for their own cultural identity, and for their religion, which had already been made almost extinct in India, the land of its birth, by Hinduism.

No measure of federalism was granted. A pact between the then Prime Minister, Mr S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, and the Tamil leader, Mr S.J.V. Chelvaasingham, which might have settled the differences between the two races was upset by an Opposition politician, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, who conducted a massive campaign against it.

Now that Mr Jayewardene is the country's President, he is faced with much the same kind of Opposition hostility to his proposals.

Frustrated, the Tamils turned to total separation as the answer. The Federal Party became the Tamil United Liberation Front, which advocated the establishment of a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the country.

Kosovo Serbs' anger worries Belgrade

From Dossa Trevisan Belgrade

Ethnic tension in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province mounted yesterday, when thousands of Serbs gathered in the village of Kosovo Polje to protest against being forced out by ethnic Albanians, who constitute the majority in the province.

The meeting, attended by 5,000 people, heard allegations of Albanian harassment of Serbs, complaints over alleged official failure to redress Serbian grievances and demands that high-ranking Serbian officials should receive their representatives.

Mr Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Serbian League of Communists, was rushed to the region with the promise that the Serbs' complaints would be attended to and that Albanian national-

ists, who the Serbs claim have penetrated the local administration, would be weeded out.

Recently, Mr Rahman Morina, the Kosovo police chief, disclosed that 123 policemen were being investigated for allegedly siding with Albanian nationalists. The meeting heard reports of continuing police harassment of Serbs in Kosovo.

Since the Albanian nationalist riots in 1981, hundreds of Albanians have been tried for separatist activities; last year alone 140 Albanians were jailed for such offences. Kosovo is inhabited by 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and some 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins. Serbs and Montenegrins have been selling their property and leaving in their thousands since 1981.

At present 10 Albanians are on trial in the region, charged with organizing underground cells with intent to overthrow the existing system and set up an ethnically pure republic of Kosovo which, eventually, would be united with Albania.

Elsewhere in Yugoslavia labour unrest continues. Although last month's strike wave has died down, some stoppages are still under way in protest against the federal Government's pay freeze, which affects hundreds of thousands of workers.

In the north-west, a strike

by 1,700 coal miners in Labin has entered its third week. They are demanding a pay rise of 100 per cent, as well as the dismissal of the entire mine management, which they blame for the enterprise's poor financial results.

For the first time in communist Yugoslavia's history, trade union leaders have backed the workers' protests against the wage freeze. Union officials have said that workers' patience has reached breaking point.

The real test for the Government comes in July, when the legislation allowing the closure of loss-making enterprises comes into force. More than 2,000 Yugoslav enterprises, which employ about 600,000 workers, ended the last financial year with losses. An estimated 200 firms may face bankruptcy.

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The young men, who in a number of cases had found themselves deprived of university entrance, turned to the gun to enforce their demands. The Mayor of Jaffna and other Tamil politicians were their early targets. But they soon turned against the Sri Lankan police and armed forces, who came to be regarded as an army of occupation in the north.

It was the death of 13 soldiers in a mine explosion in July 1983 that sparked the mass killing, looting and burning of Tamils throughout the rest of the country. The violence, though at first no doubt spontaneous, was soon mainly organized by Sinhala chauvinists, who saw this as the opportunity to rid themselves for ever of the Tamil menace.

A flood of Tamil refugees to the north and east and more especially to India became a fertile recruiting ground for armed militants, and the terror groups began to proliferate.

Six months after the July 1983 violence, the Indian Government provided the driving force for a round table

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conference to discuss constitutional changes which could satisfy Tamil aspirations. A document drawn up between Indian envoys and the Sri Lankans, known as Annexure "C", became the focus of these discussions, which lasted virtually throughout 1984.

Since then there have been further attempts under India's good offices to refine these proposals and to persuade Mr Jayewardene's Government to yield more and more to the Tamils.

The Tamils have made a particular issue of the need to link the northern province in which the Tamils have an overwhelming majority with the eastern province in which, thanks to a progressive settlement policy by Sinhalese farmers, they are in a minority. This has been a sticking point with the Sinhalese too, who see such a linkage as only a short step from the creation of separate states.

Talks last year went a long way towards refining proposals about how much power should be devolved from the central Government to provincial assemblies. Finally, on December 19 two Indian ministers persuaded Mr Jayewardene to agree to the dismemberment of the eastern province by the removal of the Ampara electorate, where most of the Sinhalese of the province live. This would restore the Tamils to the majority position in the province, and would answer their fears of domination in their own homeland.

Together with proposals for some institutional linkage, and the promise of a referendum on full linkage after some time, the December 19 package was the most hopeful sign yet that a political solution was possible.

However, the package was roundly opposed by many Sinhalese, who objected to the frustration of 40 years of settlement in the province, and by some Muslims who form the third and smallest community in the east. In an undivided province they could have held the balance and formed part of any provincial government. Under the December 19 proposals they would be condemned to permanent domination by the Hindu majority.

The Tamil militants, particularly the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest of the groups, have also set their faces against the December proposals because they diminish their demand for control of the traditional Tamil homeland.

In the meantime, the Government is facing increased demands for firm action against the Tamil militants. While the possibility of a political solution has receded for the moment, the Government has to be seen to be doing something.

Leading article, page 15

Censure of Prem collapses

Bangkok — Attempts by opposition MPs to censure Premier Pinsulamongkorn for the first time since he became Prime Minister yesterday collapsed after some of them had been bribed to drop their support for the no-confidence motion (Neil Kelly writes).

This failure to rebuke the Prime Minister for alleged government mismanagement and corruption is seen as a significant victory for the Army over civilian politicians. Senior army officers persuaded 15 MPs to withdraw support for the motion.

Village clash

Bogotá (Reuters) — Nine Maoist guerrillas of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and an army officer were killed during a battle with troops in Colombia. The clash occurred near the village of Rio de Oro in Cesar province.

Vietnam suit

New York (Reuters) — The US Court of Appeals has approved a \$180 million (£120 million) settlement of Agent Orange lawsuits brought by veterans who said they suffered from use of the herbicide during the Vietnam War.

Sister killed

Reggio di Calabria (AP) — A 20-year-old truck driver was accused of killing his sister in a dispute with possible under-world links. Police said he confessed to shooting her to "avenge the honour of the family" because he was upset by her relations with men.

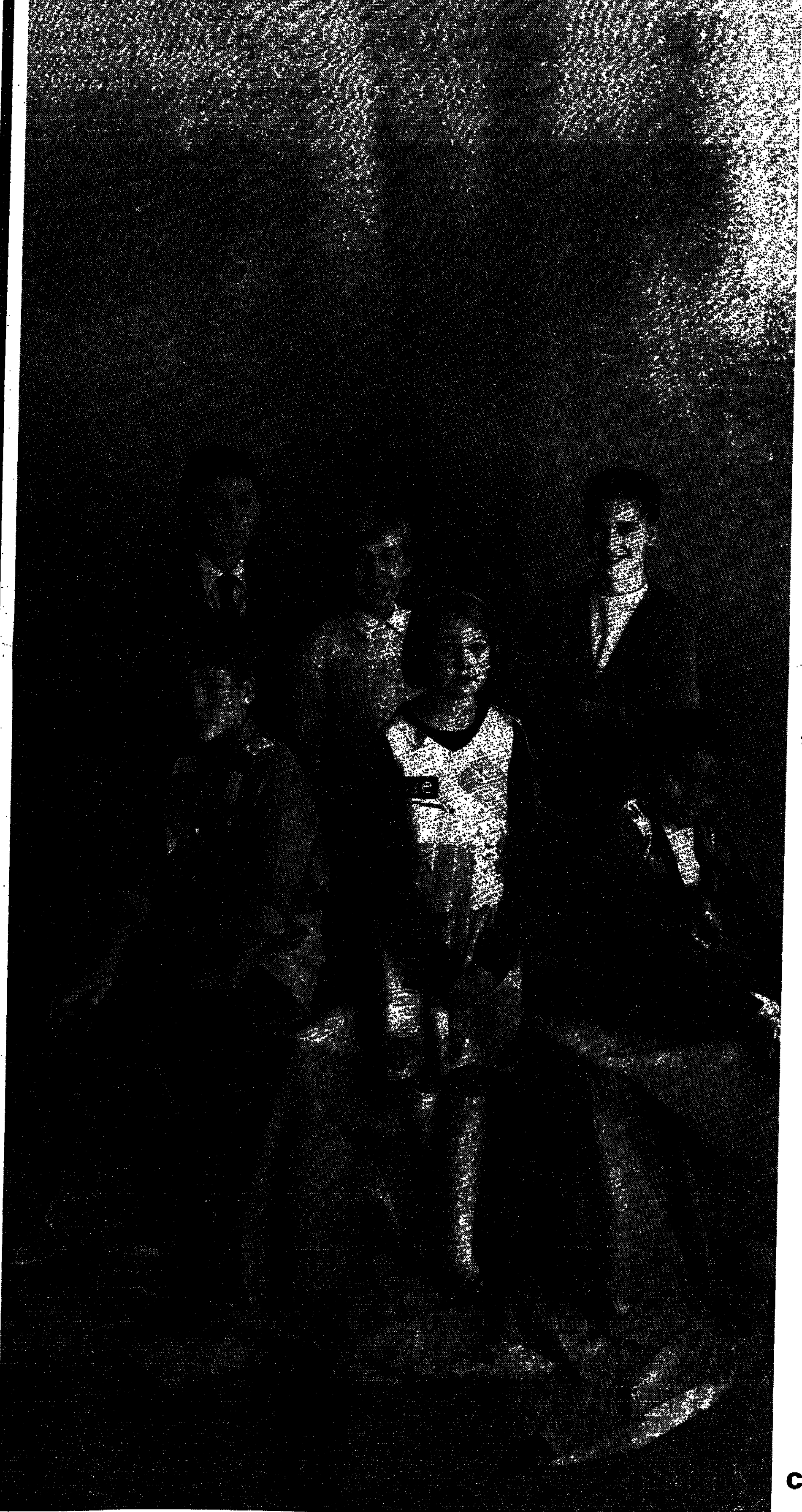
Bedtime story

Thionville, France (AFP) — Two French teenagers, trying to burglar a grocery store at Uckange, eastern France, left their three-year-old brother as lookout man, but were seized by police because the child fell asleep in his pushchair.

Correction

Mr Michael Dukakis is Governor of Massachusetts, not California, as stated on April 14 in a list of possible candidates for the US presidency.

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SPECTRUM

It took a lawyer's political skill — and popular support — to halt Argentina's latest military rebellion in its tracks

The civilian stands firm

The Plaza de Mayo was filled with rapturous crowds yet again last week, cheering their leader to the echo, this time for the outcome of the government's confrontation with dissenting army officers. Argentines love a good political crisis.

While throwing themselves into the drama, however, they reserve the right to be privately sceptical, even cynical, about the motives of the leaders who have strutted across the country's political stage in rapid and often abrupt succession. There are already plenty of whisperers in Buenos Aires suggesting that President Raúl Alfonsín's triumph over the rebel officers involved a degree of stage-management and secret compromises which may haunt him later.

They have every excuse for cynicism, considering the quality of the nation's leadership during the past 40 years at least. But that has never prevented them from turning out by the hundred thousand at moments of euphoria, to acclaim whichever self-seeking demagogue or gold-braided general has happened to occupy the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace, at the time.

But there is a difference today, and perhaps it is evidence of an historic change in the national temperament. The object of their acclaim is no colourful figure offering the country illusory glory and easy excitement. Alfonsín is a portly, balding provincial lawyer with minimal charisma and a habit of lecturing his audiences like a schoolmaster.

"He does not project — he is like the dean of your local neighbourhood, whom you might run into in the barber's shop or the law office," says a journalist in Buenos Aires, who has met him. "He dislikes coming up to town, stays out at the presidential country-house when he can. He is very assured and avuncular, very much the family man — loves his beef and pasta — he's always mentioning his grandchildren in his speeches."

But the events of the Easter weekend marked a change: "It was a different man who went out on that balcony to announce that he was flying off to see the rebel officers. He was absolutely spitting mad."

The whisperers are already suggesting that the dramatic helicopter ride to the military camp to

THE TIMES PROFILE

PRESIDENT ALFONSÍN

challenge the officers face to face, putting himself physically in their power and risking a humiliating rebuff, was a charade mounted for public effect after a secret compromise involving more or less disreputable concessions.

Although earlier in the crisis Alfonsín had ruled out any negotiation, clearly there was some sort of bargaining process involved. But close observers are convinced that there was no fix, and that the anger, and the courage, were real. "The decision was made in 10 minutes, without consulting his cabinet, precisely because the officers had broken guarantees they had made," says another journalist.

In effect, the President allowed the public reaction to build up — fostered to some extent by an announcement that public transport would be free in Buenos Aires on the day of the big demonstration, but in essence a spontaneous show of mass support — and then challenged the officers to flout the will of the civilian nation, or to back down.

They backed down. The army has stepped in to dislodge an elected government four times in the last 40 years, but in each case the country's rulers were already discredited and unpopular. Today it is the army itself which is discredited, by the follies and brutalities of military rule.

Alfonsín's credit remains high, not only in his own party but also to a great extent in the divided and confused Peronist opposition — which he has taken some pains to woo. To overthrow him would be to risk plunging the country into the chaos of a power vacuum.

Paradoxically, the officers' challenge has come just at the right time to allow him to win fresh public esteem at a moment when some observers thought he had gravely compromised his reputation. The hand of the army was suspected when, last Christmas, Alfonsín hurried into law an Act

setting a limit to the human rights trials which have been bringing to justice those responsible for the official terrorism of 1976-82, in which 9,000 are said to have disappeared.

"To be realistic, the trials had to stop at some point," says an Oxford don who is a close student of Latin American affairs. "Of course, Argentina's army is over-mighty and the most politicized in the region. But you cannot transform an army from top to bottom overnight. Many of the most senior offenders have already been convicted, and the army is deeply unhappy."

In his handling of the latest crisis, Alfonsín has dismissed the last shreds of the theory that he is a man of no special distinction or vision, who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. "He would not be where he is if he had not had a very sure political instinct," says the Oxford observer. "He made the right decisions under military rule and the right decisions after the Falklands War, and he has mostly been right since."

As far as most outsiders were concerned, he came almost from nowhere to win the post-war elections, in which the Peronists had seemed clear favourites. But his political involvement has been lifelong and consistent, though also discreet. He is the son of a Spaniard whose Republican sympathies brought him to Argentina after the triumph of Franco. The incongruous "Foullies" in his family name — not so incongruous in a melting-pot country like Argentina — commemorates his mother's father, a Welsh medical student who fought in support of Ypolito Yrigoyen, the country's first freely elected president, who was leader of the same Radical party which Alfonsín now leads.

His anti-militarist father sent him to a military academy at 13 — a step enabling a family of limited means to secure a good education. It is rumoured that the contacts he made at school may have stood him in good stead at times when his relations with the military have been difficult, not to say dangerous.

Instead of entering the forces, he went to study law at the University of La Plata, and returned to Chascomus, where his father kept a shop. He founded a newspaper



called *El Imparcial* and was elected as a Radical on to the municipal council. He also set about founding a classic Latin family, marrying a girl called Maria and having three sons and three daughters.

In 1963 he was elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies, as a supporter of the Radical government which was overthrown by the army in 1966. His demoralized party drifted to the right, and he founded a group within the party, the Movement for Renewal and Change, to keep moderate radicalism alive. He did not flee the country in the years of military terror. It must have been necessary to conduct himself with a certain circumspection, but he is not criticized for having been unduly timid, and he is said to have made some public gestures of dissent, such as supervising the funerals of two Uruguayan senators who were tortured to death by the terror squads.

The leadership of his party fell vacant just as the Falklands War ended, and in quick succession he

BIOGRAPHY

1928: Born March 13, in Chascomus, 75 miles south of Buenos Aires.
1950: Journalist and municipal councillor in Chascomus.
1962: Member, Buenos Aires provincial legislature.
1963: Imprisoned by Peron regime.
1963-6: 1973-6: Member, Chamber of Deputies; in 1966, founded dissident Movement for Renewal and Change within Radical Party.
1983: June, elected leader of Radical Party; October, elected President.

became party leader and president of the republic. His success must partly have been because he was untainted by the failures of the past, but it also reflected his bold declaration that he would disregard the law passed by the junta as its last act, indemnifying the military against retribution in the courts for

the sins of the years of terror. The Peronists had temporized on the point, but the voters proved to want to see justice done.

His six-year term of office ends in 1989, and the constitution forbids him to stand again. "I asked him what achievement he was most proud of," says an American in Buenos Aires, "and he replied: 'My proudest moment will be when I hang the ribbon of office round the neck of my successor.'"

Naturally there is scepticism among his compatriots about such Cincinnatus-like sentiments. "Many think he will run again, specially if there are still tremendous crises looming and there is still no obvious successor," says one observer in Buenos Aires. "I do think he has a sense that this is a very crucial moment in the country's history, and that his six years may determine its future for a very long time to come. And in that I think he is absolutely correct."

George Hill

Parrots in peril

Pieces of eight in sufficient numbers could save two types of endangered parrot. John A. Hill reports

Parrots have long had a reputation as rowdies of the bird world, given to raucous squawks, blue language and salty practical comedy. Nevertheless, the National Federation of Zoological Gardens has chosen two species on a Caribbean island as beneficiaries of its annual fund-raising campaign.

The imperial and red-necked parrots, found only on Dominica in the Lesser Antilles, are critically endangered and the object is to provide £24,000 to help the International Council for Bird Preservation to carry out a programme of research and local education.

Dr Peter Bennett, of the Zoological Society of London, who is the federation's conservation co-ordinator, says: "Parrots have a familiar, friendly image to the guy in the street but there is not a lot of information about them in the wild. In fact, although much is on record about a few living in temperate areas, we know virtually nothing about the life of those in tropical zones."

According to estimates only 50 imperials (*Amazona imperialis*) survive and 250 red-neckeds (*A. arausiaca*) in diminishing mountain rainforest. The plumage of Amazona parrots, of which there are 26 species and 52 sub-species, is predominantly green, but the handsome imperial, 20 inches long and the largest of them, has a violet breast. It lives on the upper slopes of the island.

Hurricanes are sure to be an important factor in the fortunes of Caribbean parrots. In 1979, Hurricane David devastated large areas of Dominica, particularly in the south, where the imperial is no longer found.

Introducing their "parrots in peril" scheme, the federation said that Dominica's economy depends on farming and pointed out that in the past five or 10 years large areas of rainforest have been logged to make way for agriculture.

New tomb for Tutankhamun

By Warriner Sme of The Times

In the heart of Dorset an archaeologist has re-created King Tut's burial place, even down to the odours

The Tutankhamun Exhibition, which opened this week in a former monastic church in Dorchester, re-creates exactly the scene that met its discoverer, Howard Carter, in 1922 when he was the first man to enter the tomb of "King Tut" — as he became universally known — since the Pharaoh's death more than 3,000 years earlier.

And although none of the objects actually comes from the tomb — the Egyptian Government let them out of the country just once, for the 1972 British Museum exhibition — every nuance is a painstaking recreation, even down to the odours.

"Carter noted the smells as he entered the tomb, a very valuable description because it gave us a base to work on," said Dr Michael Ridley, the 43-year-old creator of the permanent exhibition. "We were able to use original oils and similar ointments to re-create them."

Dr Ridley was involved as an archaeologist in the 1972



Treasure trove: Howard Carter (right) supervises the clearance of King Tut's tomb

exhibition. Since then museums have been his career, this new venture his dream. He gave up his job as curator of Weymouth and Portland Museums to bring Tutankhamun's tomb, as it were, to life.

The exhibition is divided into three sections. The first introduces the young king, the

Pharaohs' Egypt of 1300 BC, and "the whole process of life and death as they saw it". Then come the ante and burial chambers, packed with replicas of treasures just as they were left three millenniums ago.

In the third section are the exquisite facsimiles of the greatest pieces, made by craftsmen using the same techniques, tools and materials as those of the ancient Egyptians. Although Dr Ridley had to travel the world to research his project — to Egypt and New York (where the major archives are) — the stonemasons, woodcarvers, metalworkers, artists and jewellers were all recruited within 100 miles of Dorchester.

"We wanted everything made by living craftsmen because that way you inject a degree of life into an object," he said. "Casts would be cold and lifeless."

The major piece is the famous mask of Tutankhamun, solid gold inlaid with enamel, and there is the statuette of the king as a harpooner, a figure of Anubis, the jackal-headed god of embalming, and the lotus head of the boy king being

"Carter noted the smells in the tomb and gave us a base to work on"

born out of a flower, plus furniture, herakleus standards and religious icons. Dr Ridley is coy about the cost, admitting only to "hundreds of thousands of pounds", all of which has come from West Country businesses. There has been great support from the Egyptian Government — "they see it as a tasteful going to Egypt" — but no direct Egyptian involvement.

Dr Ridley chose Dorchester in Dorset instead of London because of cheaper property and the convergence of railway and motor routes, allowing him to keep admission down to £2 a head for adults, £1 for children.

You may be surprised to find that you can buy a joint ticket for the Tutankhamun exhibition and the Dinosaur Museum, 500 yards away. The clue is the name of that museum's director — Mrs Jacqueline Ridley: "We thought that as we were close enough to be married, we ought to be able to arrange something for our joint visitors," Dr Ridley said.

Simon Tait

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The Tutankhamun Exhibition is at 25 High West Street, Dorchester.

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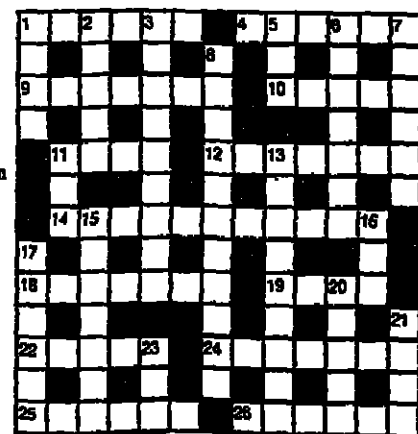
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1239

ACROSS
1 Learner (6)
4 Sandy shore (6)
9 Dais (7)
10 Set for portrait (5)
11 Principal (4)
12 Train (7)
14 Avant garde German composer (11)
18 Assortment (7)
19 Play characters (4)
22 Dens (5)
24 Pleasant facility (7)
25 Come out (6)
26 Grab (6)

DOWN
1 Informer (4)
2 View (5)
3 Events record (9)
5 Forecast winner (3)
6 Being away (7)
7 Evades cleverly (6)
8 Rubaiyat poet (4,7)
11 Married woman (3)



13 Constable's stick (9)
15 White ant (7)
16 Louise egg (3)
17 Develop gradually (6)
20 Tipped over (5)
21 Legend (4)
23 Droop (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1238
ACROSS: 1 Ardennes 5 Bait 9 Faraway 10 Order 11 Raise 12 Muzzle 13 Sabot 15 Strip 16 Acid 18 Spicy 20 Plaid 21 Load 23 Nose 24 Atrocious
DOWN: 1 Affirm 2 Director 3 Now 4 Elysian Fields 6 Aide 7 Thrust 8 Domesday 11 Rhapsody 14 Borodino 15 Sampson 17 Dogged 19 Mass 22 Ace

HEALTH

Mercury and a dental dilemma

Peter Dunscombe, a printing salesman, and Ronnie Lane, formerly a member of the Faces pop group, have more in common than both being diagnosed as sufferers of multiple sclerosis: both have experienced a remarkable remission in the symptoms of the disease, following dental treatment. Despite official cynicism, they both believe that the removal of amalgam fillings in their teeth has been a major contribution to their recovery.

Two years ago, 32-year-old Dunscombe didn't have the energy to get out of bed in the morning, his eyesight had deteriorated and walking and driving were a supreme effort for him. After countless tests, MS was diagnosed and doctors warned him that at best his condition could be held in check, at worst he could be in a wheelchair or even dead within two years.

Today he says he is practically clear of his symptoms and has been for more than a year. Changing his diet, giving up cheese and tea, he says, it does not work with MS sufferers, but Dunscombe puts his remarkable recovery down to the day he visited a London dentist, Anthony Newbury. He had heard that Newbury was having amazing results with MS sufferers, whose health improved dramatically after having their amalgam fillings replaced by white composite.

Newbury believes that in those who are allergic or sensitive to mercury-based

Can the replacement of fillings benefit some MS sufferers? Barbara Lamb reports

amalgam fillings, which give off mercury vapour, the immune system is affected. This belief, he says, is supported by the published work of Dr David Egglestone of the University of South California.

Ronnie Lane, now 41, was diagnosed as a MS sufferer when he was 30. But it was only four months ago that he visited Dr Allen Brambir, a holistic medical practitioner. "When he first came to see me he couldn't walk," says Brambir. "Amalgam-filling replacement was only one part of the treatment, but an important part. There was also diet analysis, stress analysis, dietary manipulation, and mineral vitamin supplementation."

"My daughter has MS and improved tremendously after having her mercury fillings taken out. We reckon we can help 70 to 80 per cent of the patients, but we have a hard core whom we cannot help. I don't know why."

Lane, now living and working in Austin, Texas, says: "The idea of replacing my fillings was suggested to me in England last summer. David Cook, an MS sufferer who set up the MS Foundation, told me he'd had his fillings removed and he felt an amazing improvement."

"There was no immediate improvement. There's nothing immediate about something like that. Let's face it, when



New fillings for old: Ronnie Lane, left, and Peter Dunscombe, both MS sufferers

they started removing those fillings the mercury had been in my body since I was eight. Within a month I was definitely feeling better. That awful fatigue lifted. Before I had my fillings removed I went on a strict gluten-free diet. But it wasn't until I had the mercury removed that the diet side really started to work.

"How can describe how I feel now? It's like somebody had cleaned the windows, and you never realized how dirty they were. There are so many people who are still sceptical about it, but I don't want to

get into arguments because it worked for me."

One who is very sceptical is Norman Webb, spokesman for the British Dental Association's Dental Health and Science Committee. "It's wrong to suggest to these poor unfortunates that they should have their fillings out and they'll be cured; that's immoral," he says. "The amount of mercury that seeps from an amalgam filling is minute, it's not pure mercury but a mixture of many substances."

The DHSS carried out its own investigation, coming to the conclusion: "Amalgam Free from Risk". Its report said: "It has been suggested that exposure to mercury from amalgam may be a factor in the development of some chronic diseases but the evidence does not support this contention."

The BDA also has serious doubts about patients having their amalgam removed at huge cost — estimated at between £500 and £1,000 — on the flimsiest of evidence. One such test, the vega test which measures the electrical activity of fillings as well as revealing which fillings leak the most mercury, is now under scrutiny at King's College Hospital. Dr Alex Inglis, head of the department of conservative dentistry, says: "I now have evidence that this sort of diagnostic test is relatively meaningless."

Professor Derek Bryce-Smith, professor of organic chemistry at Reading University, who has written research papers on the possible link between MS and several toxic substances including mercury, would rather see patients attend allergy clinics to test their sensitivity to mercury. He would also like to see dentists exercising more caution in the use of amalgam in the very young. "I wouldn't recommend amalgam fillings in milk teeth because mercury is toxic to the developing brain."

Clinical ecologist Patrick Kingsley, who treats more than 400 MS sufferers from his private practice outside Birmingham, believes in filling replacement as part of the overall treatment, but an essential part.

"I manipulate their diet before I suggest removing their amalgam fillings," he says. "Some patients have said 'From the day I had my fillings changed, my eyesight started to improve'. By contrast I have to admit I've also had patients who have done the diet, had their fillings changed, and are still going downhill."

Several of his patients are taking part in a 12-month pilot scheme which began at Birmingham Dental Hospital attached to the University of Birmingham in September, 1986.

"Before we remove the amalgam fillings, we measure the mercury in the body and use that as a baseline," Dr Manish Basu, the senior lecturer in pathology, explains. "Then we gradually remove amalgam fillings, replacing them with a non-mercury-containing material. If their symptoms are due to mercury, as the fillings are replaced, the mercury levels should drop and the symptoms improve." It must not be forgotten, says Basu, that everybody has a minute amount of mercury in their body, absorbed from sea food, cigarette smoke and mercury in the atmosphere.

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Signs and symptoms

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which the myelin sheaths surrounding the axons of the nerves of the spinal cord break down — rather like the insulation around an electric cable wearing out. The one in 2,000 people who suffer from MS would be well advised to heed the scepticism expressed by the DHSS and the British Dental Association before they rush to have their teeth refilled.

Current medical thought is that MS is either the result of a virus affecting susceptible people, a complex bio-chemical abnormality, or an autoimmune disease. In most cases, the signs and symptoms of multiple sclerosis come and go and the disease is classi-

cally associated with long periods of remission when the patient is comparatively fit. In a third of patients the disease runs a particularly slow course and in its early stages recovery between attacks is virtually complete.

Over the years a variety of causes of MS have been suggested, including, 25 years ago, the theory that it might be due to the transmission of the virus through the bone marrow in lamb chops; patients and doctors alike will want to see the evidence of a large controlled trial before they believe that teeth fillings are any more likely to cause multiple sclerosis than the butcher's chops.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Using the sponge

When gynaecologists started prescribing the contraceptive sponge they hoped that its absorbent action would enhance any value it had as a spermicidal barrier. Experience has shown that it is inefficient as an absorbent and that its efficacy depends upon the spermicide it carries. It is not a reliable method and should only be used as an added precaution, in conjunction with other methods which have an appreciable failure rate such as the sheath or intrauterine device.

A gynaecologist, Mr Michael Read, in a report on the contraceptive sponge in *Mims Magazine*, emphasizes that it has a failure rate twice that of the diaphragm used with a spermicidal cream, but that as a supplementary device or for patients whose fertility is low (such as women over the age of 45) it has advantages. It is less messy, requires no special fitting and no prescription. There is a slight risk of toxic shock syndrome and the sponge should always be removed within 24 hours and not used during menstruation.

Rice risk

The indigestion which may follow a chicken vindaloo or a prawn bhuna is usually attributed to the accompanying rice. But doctors have been re-examining earlier reports which drew

attention to the geographical distribution of duodenal ulceration. In those areas of India in which rice is the staple diet, duodenal ulceration is common; but in districts where wheat is the staple (but otherwise the food is similar) the incidence is low.

Clinical Science has published the results of experiments by researchers from University College, London, comparing the effect on the duodenum of polished rice with unmilled or freshly-milled rice, and an analysis of the biochemical reasons for the differences. The use of unmilled or freshly-milled rice inhibits the ulcer-causing action of rice.

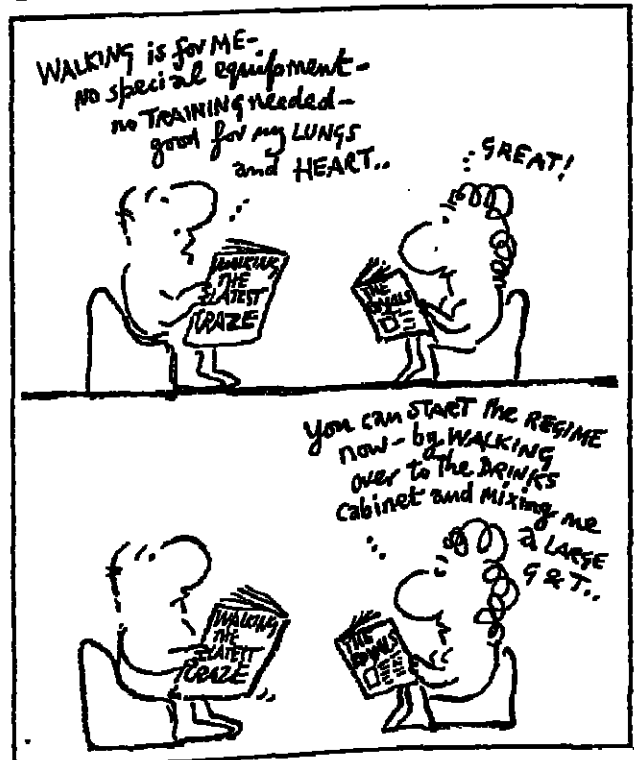
Hiatus hernia

The actor Michael Crawford is thought to have a hiatus hernia, a condition in which a weakness in the diaphragm, the muscular shelf which separates the chest from the abdomen, allows stomach acid and contents to flow in the lower end of the oesophagus (the gullet). The oesophageal mucosa is not designed to withstand gastric acidity and becomes painfully inflamed. The pain felt behind the breast bone, can radiate to the neck and down the arms.

Treatment in the first instance is medical rather than surgical; H₂ antagonists Zantac and Tagamet are useful but usually antacids, such as Gaviscon, are prescribed and the patient is advised to avoid irritant foods such as coffee, alcohol, rich sauces, curry and to raise the head of the bed. These simple measures often relieve the symptoms.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Calman's SICK NOTE



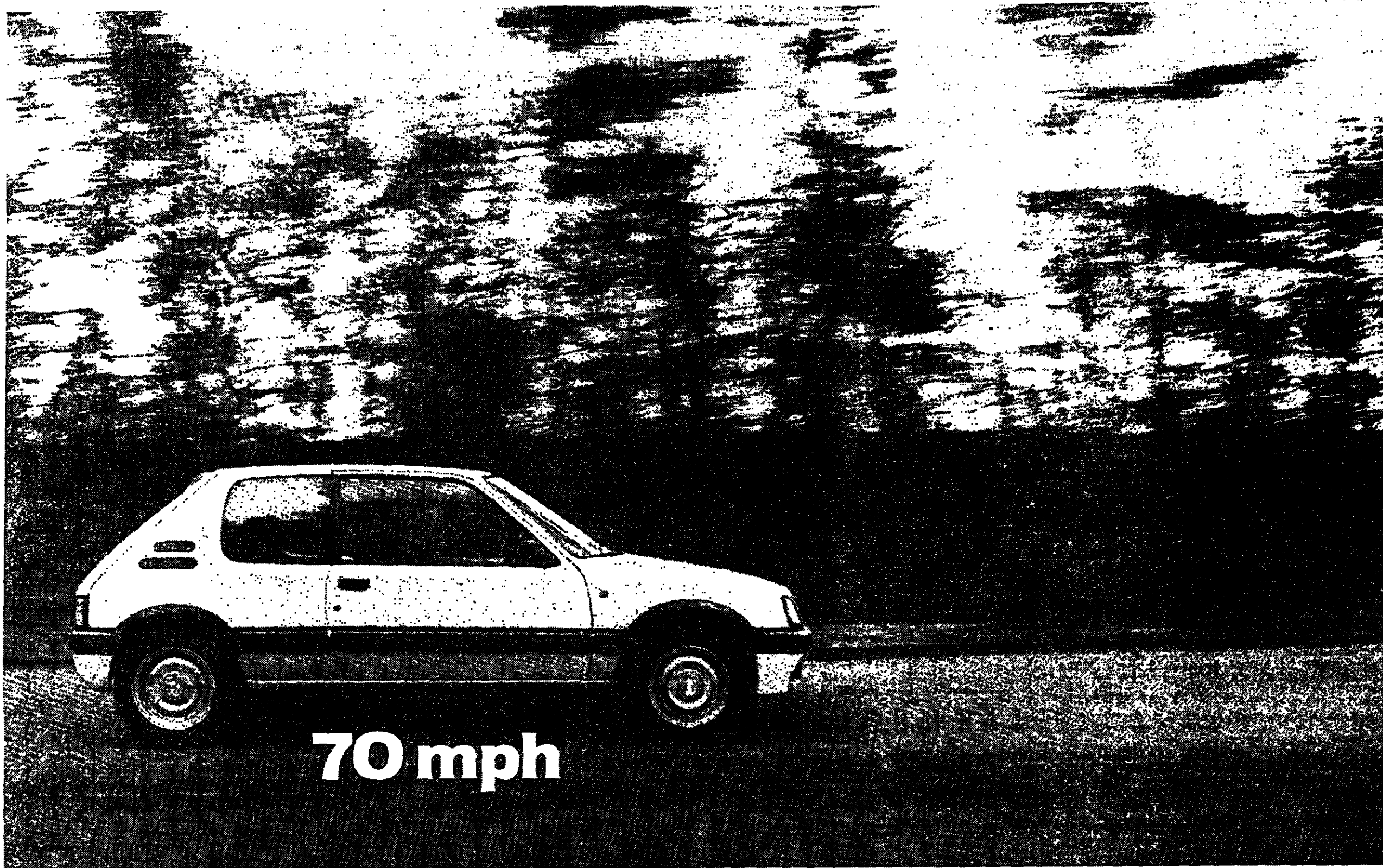
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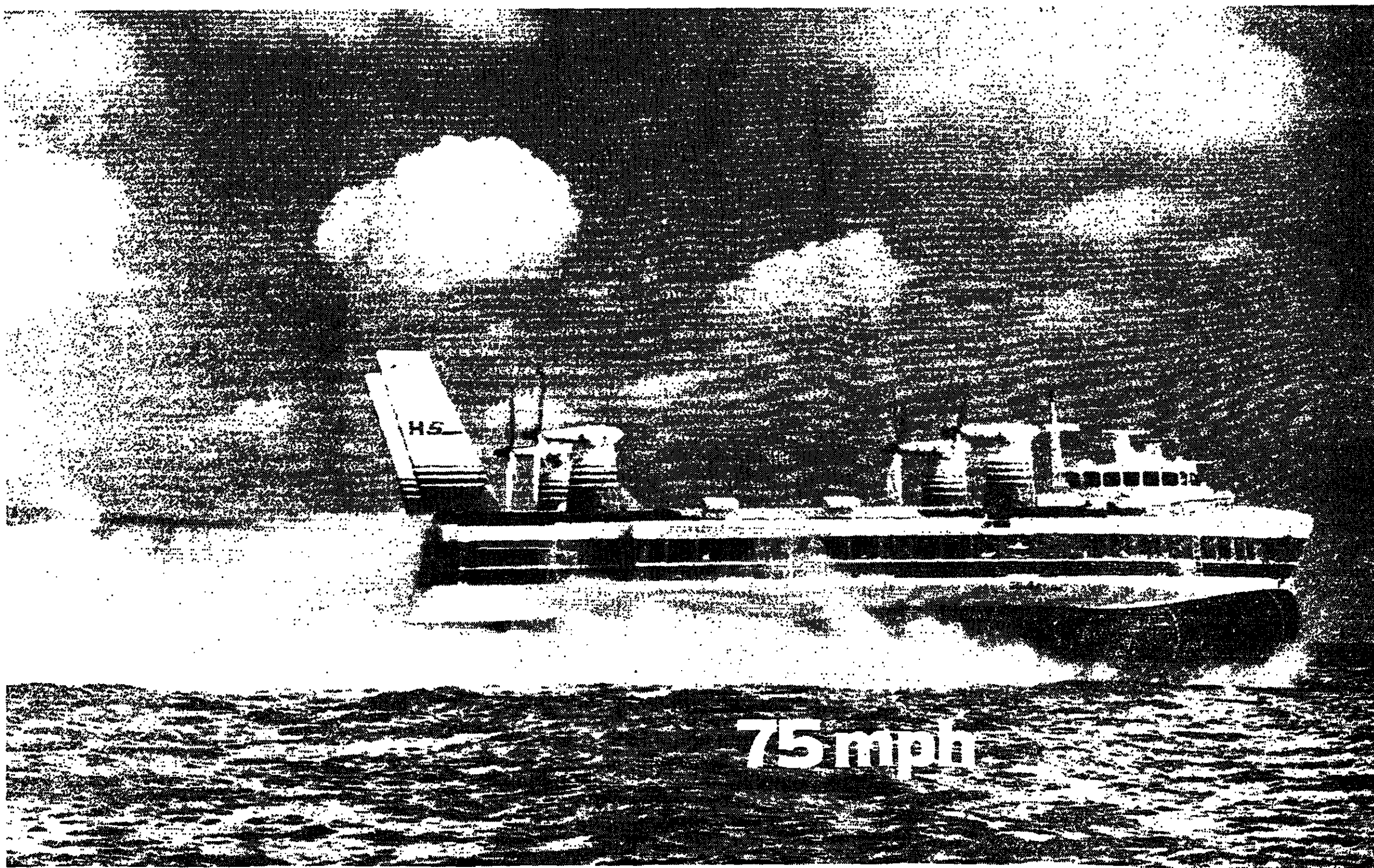


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HIGHER ED



Lit crit: or books for fun

Peter Ackroyd
reviews a new
history of
English as an
academic study

So there are good and

The whole point, of course, is to write about something you don't know. Experience has nothing to do it; and I suspect that the academic emphasis upon this strange injunction masks a puritanism which insists that literature is something to be studied rather than enjoyed. Literature must have a didactic or at the very least a clarifying power, so the argument runs, or how could it be taught? The realization that literature might not possess these no doubt excellent qualities—though it is unlikely to be simply a source of pleasure—would be enough to deprive several university departments of their government funding. But all is not lost if the making of books about books there will be no end.



The Maid at No. 37, by David Jones: fantasy in Brockley. The General Servant, by Auguste André Lançon: realism in the Victorian City. From Londoners by Celina Fox, the inhabitants in pictures and prose (Thames & Hudson, £20)

Irish life in death

Gollancz: £10.95

Miss Johnson, Ireland offering the unquellable life of order and true values, and then invaded by senseless violence. No attempt is made at suspense, no hint of the reader there the horror approaching the story. The story is told in a way that Miranda's survival a living death is seen through her eyes, and told in jerky flashbacks. She lives in a world of ghosts, and we know that the sun and moon are not real. The music are doomed from the beginning, but it had once been a world of love. Taken-for-granted family affection, youthful passion, even a romantic *coup de foudre*, and in the end, a world of indifference, all portrayed with a sense of reality and complete absence of sentimentality that put *Juni-*

Outlaws is not typically Higgins in story or setting; but it has all his hallmarks of excellence. A group of intelligent, well-off, and well-connected youths who have turned to robbery and murder are hunted, caught, and prosecuted. The trial has personal and moral consequences affecting all its participants. There are no heroes or easy answers, only some exceptional writing.

According to Miranda's records the time must be 1928, which stretches credulity if Cathal is still a student, and the young officers veterans of the trenches. This matters because the scene is set with such care, and the responses to the given situations, personal, social and political, depend so entirely on the maturity and experience of these characters, or their lack.

After the fastidiousness of Jennifer Johnston, Jennifer Chapman's *Regretting It* seems rather tawdry. I have

Vickery Turner seems to me to have the wrong title to her book and the wrong cover. I should be sorry if this charming novel were not recognized for what it is: a sophisticated comedy of urban manners, as well as a delicate love story. Africa is there, certainly; but just as telling are London, New York and Hollywood as backdrops to the funny and touching affair between actress Lili and anthropologist Darley. On hand as chorus-cupid recording angel is Lili's unlikely brother Henry, a sort of Puck in a wheelchair, who misses nothing. Nor does Vickery Turner, whose quirky view of life is worth a second look.

Murder as a fine art

By George V. Higgins
André Deutsch £10.95

● **No Flowers, By Request**, by June Thomson (*Constable £8.95*). The recipe is simple and traditional; but Thomson is one of the few writers who can be trusted to follow it time after time without disappoint-

● **A Rodent of Doubt**, by William G. Tappley (*Collins, £8.95*). Boston Attorney Brady Coyne looks into death of rich young man pretending to be drunken tramp. Tappley's fourth novel, as sharp, dry, well-written, and cleverly crafted as its predecessors, assures his entry into the select first division of American crime writing.

Poet of spring in autumn

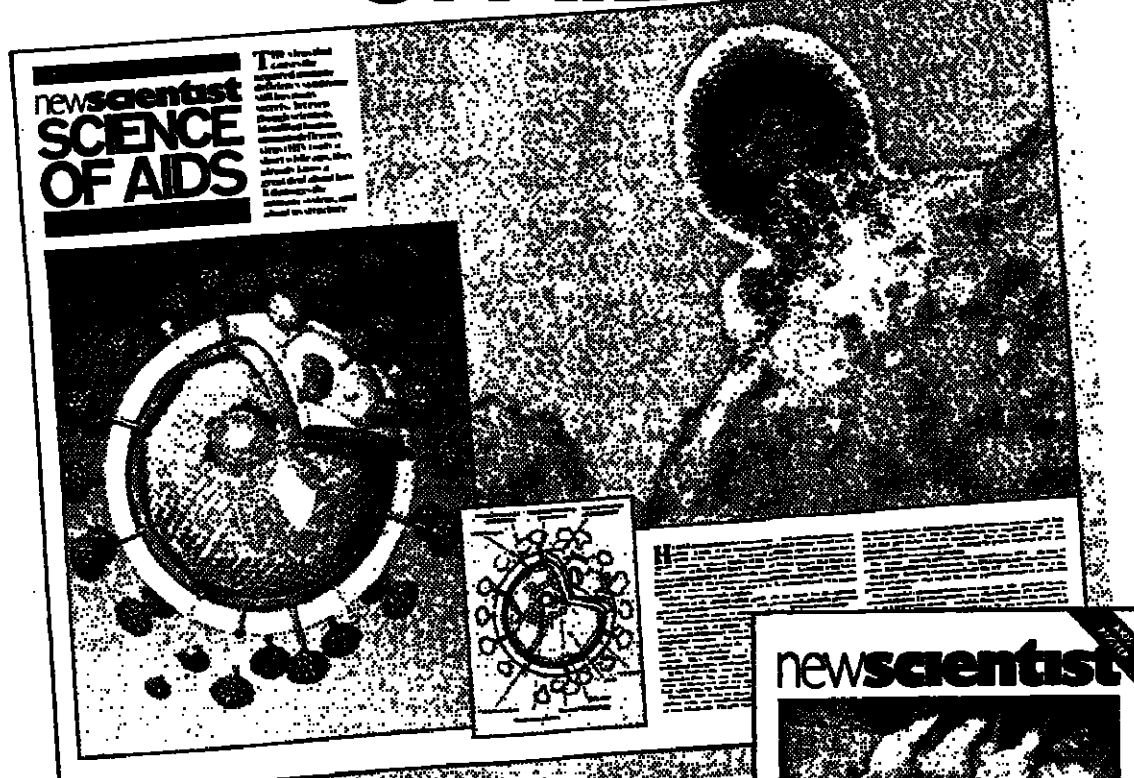
His own career indeed was evidence of how Russia was changing. His grandfather was a serf. His father, a drunkard and bigot who tried

This is a cool, admiring, and very readable biography. It makes perfect sense of his strange and unexpected marriage, that last clutch at life of a dying man. My one reservation is that M. Troyat, in the manner of professional biographers, sometimes seems to take literally things in Chekhov's letters which were perhaps intended as jokes. Anyone who has not read

Chekhov's delightful letters will find in this book an excellent introduction to his life and work; those who know him well already will find themselves continually turning back, interest refreshed and curiosity aroused, to the stories, plays, and letters. No time spent with Chekhov is time wasted.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Seven to follow

Tory punters have been studying form during the parliamentary recess to decide who will be appointed junior ministers and whips in a new Conservative government. Leading the field — in alphabetical rather than handicap order — is Robert Atkins (South, PPS), close to the centre of power and is regarded as a wit, particularly for his one-liners in the Chamber. Virginia Bottomley (Surrey, South West), owes less to being wife of Peter, more to a charm that would go down well on television. Nigel Forman (Cardiff, South West) is seen as "economically literate" and is popular with the Treasury. Michael Forsyth (Stirling) was originally thought to be a madcap right-winger but is now regarded as intelligent and dependable. Eric Forth (Dorset, PPS) and Reddick makes a good speech and is well liked by the whips, while Robert Jackson (Wantage) is a 33-1 outsider who makes the list thanks to a recent attack on the Alliance. Finally, Charles Wardle, who sits for Bexhill and Battle and is Norman Fowler's PPS, is regarded as quiet, shrewd and balanced and looks like Terry Wogan. My source a tipster who was laughed out of court when he foresaw big things for Edwina Currie.

Peking play

The sale of council houses, long the bogey of the left, has some unusual supporters. None more so than the communist government of China, which has just announced the sale of 200,000 state-owned apartments. Like Mrs Thatcher, China's Minister of Urban and Rural Reconstruction says the policy will generate new wealth for other development. So keen is Peking to sell state housing stock that some provinces have raised rents to encourage tenants to buy. Can we expect Labour councils here to follow suit?

Dancing girls

A shortage of boys has been causing problems at the World Irish Dancing Championships in Galway. Five teams out of 19 in the mixed class cheated by entering girls dressed as boys, with at least one team resorting to the play of short wigs to disguise long hair. The reason, I am told, is a change in the rules this year, stipulating that each team consist of four boys and four girls, rather than any combination.

BARRY FANTONI



Free-for-all

The crusading Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom has been accused of racism by two of its former workers. Perimeter Dhillon-Kashyap and Kofi Hagan, who were preparing an "Anti-Racist Working Pack" when they were told in February that their part-time contracts would not be renewed. The organization, which is pledged among other worthy causes to reform the Official Secrets Act (and whose members include Tony Benn) says the contracts were ended because of a cash crisis that could lead to the dismissal of other staff. It says, however, it will hold an inquiry into the allegations. The irony of bitter bit was lost on the campaign's Loretta Loach. "I don't understand what you mean," she told me. "All white people are subject to the accusation that they are racist. But unlike most of them we hope we are able to do something about it."

Wall game

Jaguar's boss, Sir John Egan, who last year earned £197,860, is examining his financial options over the repair of an 18th-century listed wall he owns which abuts Warwick Castle. At an amicable meeting last week with Warwickshire council's chief solicitor and deputy planning officer he assured them that a remedy would be found before they are forced either to serve a repair notice or compulsorily purchase the wall. Earlier this month the council's legal department was ordered to take action as the wall, shored up with timber where it is disintegrating in the middle, is in "a dreadful mess". The cost of the repair could, according to the planning department, run into five figures. Egan's options include a listed buildings grant of up to £400 available from the council, and funds from English Heritage, which does not insist on means tests.

PHS

Wanted: a world war on Aids

by Luc Montagnier

International collaboration on a huge scale is needed to deal with Aids, not just in the developed countries but on behalf of those poorer nations where it is likely to have the biggest impact.

There is a dangerous view, held by individuals and some politicians, that Aids is not "our" problem. In France and Britain, few of us yet know anyone with the disease or, despite public education campaigns, consider ourselves to be at risk. Elsewhere, some governments are tempted to make a similar misjudgement, believing the epidemic will not occur within their countries.

In the United States, 1.5 million people are estimated to be infected. In France, the figure is about 150,000 while estimates in Britain range from 40,000 to 100,000. In Africa as many as 10 million may be infected.

In Europe many of us still pretend the danger is remote, and even some African states prefer not to face the truth. Afraid of the damage to tourism, they play down the real situation. Aids is spreading at different speeds — relatively slowly in Europe, North America and Japan but much faster in tropical Africa, South America, the Caribbean and perhaps India.

The reasons for this are unclear but we believe that genital infections, which are quite common in many of these areas, may be a contributory factor. In some tropical countries Aids infection among the general population may already be between 10 and 15 per cent. These countries have no blood screening, and since blood transfusions are common, the risk of infection through transfusion is correspondingly high.

The Aids virus, now known as HIV-1, was first isolated at the Pasteur Institute in 1983 by colleagues and myself. Last week we published in *Nature* the full scientific details of a second virus, HIV-2, which we have found to be not so much a close relative but rather a distant cousin of HIV-1.

The emergence of this second virus in West Africa is very worrying. It has the same characteristics as the first, and since it is transmitted in the same way, through blood or sexual intercourse, there is no reason why it should not have a similar impact. The implication is that Africa's problems will be twice as bad as we believed initially.

In Europe, heterosexual trans-

mission is increasing. More people will become infected through sexual, prosthetic and drug addicts. Many young people have a variety of sexual partners.

An additional serious concern is the possibility that HIV-1 has not yet reached its full destructive potential. This is classically the case, with germs increasing in virulence as an infection takes hold throughout a population. We may find that the incubation period gets shorter, that other syndromes, similar to multiple sclerosis, will appear, that the brain is affected more quickly.

It is for these reasons that I am very much in favour of the creation of an international Aids foundation to support the work of the World Health Organization and develop private initiatives in individual countries. In particular, it should encourage and fund better co-operation among international researchers.

Such collaboration is already under way, but I want to see a much better network of communications. An international foundation could raise and distribute funds for use in underdeveloped countries, speed the

introduction of blood-screening projects, make blood testing cheaper and train African doctors in the latest ways of preventing and treating the disease.

Colleagues in France and the US have been discussing these ideas, and I believe such a scheme will receive great support. Britain could play an important part. I would like to see another figure emerge to do for Aids what Bob Geldof did for famine relief.

The future of our research at the Pasteur Institute has been made much more secure by the £30 million proceeds from the sale of the jewelry bequeathed by the Duchess of Windsor. The money will be used to build new laboratories and equipment devoted to research on Aids and related viruses.

Although I am optimistic about our ability to defeat Aids, and there have already been important advances, we are still in the early days of a long war, and the next few years will be very difficult. How much we achieve depends on how ready we are to accept that Aids is not just someone else's problem but our's too.

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Professor Montagnier is director of Aids research at the Pasteur Institute, Paris.

Frederick Lawton argues that changes in sentencing to cut prison numbers will lead to legal uncertainty, and more crime

Justice — even if the jails stay crowded



Britain's prison population has risen during the past 50 years from a daily average of about 13,000 to almost 50,000. This can be accounted for only in small part by population growth — up by 20 per cent; furthermore, many of those imprisoned then would, today, be fined, given a suspended sentence or not come to court at all.

In London, for example, a sentence of one month was commonly imposed for a first offence of shoplifting; men convicted of importing for immoral purposes were almost invariably sentenced to between three and six months.

In their criticism of the courts, the Association of Chief Officers of Probation has accused judges and magistrates of failing to use the alternatives to custody, while the National Association of Probation Officers wants statutory criteria relating to the seriousness of the offence and the offender's potential danger to the public to be met before a custodial sentence is imposed.

In the short term these measures would reduce the number of prisoners but, in the long term, the greater number of persistent offenders at large would probably lead to an increase in lawlessness. In the meantime uncertainty would be introduced into the administration of justice while a body of case law was developed for adjudging what was a serious offence and what made an offender dangerous.

Judges and magistrates are, of course, aware of prison overcrowding. This is most acute in the so-called local prisons in which sentences of up to two years are served. These shorter sentences are imposed mainly for offences such as burglary and the dishonest use of stolen cheques and credit cards, but seldom for a single first offence unless the circumstances are unusually grave.

The courts know that approximately 80 per cent of first offenders will never appear again and that it does not seem to matter what kind of sentence they get.

Last summer the spectacle of social-services caravans chasing a hippie convoy around the countryside to dole out benefit payments led to calls for an effective work test requirement for the able-bodied unemployed. Such "work for welfare" systems are now prevalent in the US, although differing from state to state, where they are referred to as "Workfare".

There are sound reasons for considering the adoption of a Workfare system in Britain, not least in reducing long-term unemployment. People recorded as unemployed for more than a year now constitute about 40 per cent of the total register, although an unknown number make money from the black economy.

Advocates of Workfare, such as Ralph Howell, the Conservative MP for North Norfolk, argue that its adoption could eliminate, or at least greatly reduce, this social and economic problem, while making great savings for taxpayers, and would provide work of general benefit to the community (for example through programmes to clean up the environment).

How could a Workfare system be made to operate here, is it even possible? In principle it is certainly feasible. The central feature would simply be that the government offered community work or training to all the able-bodied long-term unemployed (those who had been out of a job for more than six months, say, or a year). If they refused to accept either, they would lose their entitlement to unemployment benefit.

Some would prefer the training offer, others low-paid jobs in the private or public sectors (thus

The remaining 20 per cent commit further crimes. Some stop when they marry and have children; more when they get into their thirties. A minority go on committing crimes for the rest of their lives.

It is these persistent offenders who are largely responsible for the overcrowding in local prisons. Usually within weeks, sometimes days, of being released they commit a crime of the same kind that sent them to prison originally.

For the offender under 21 who has failed to respond to non-custodial sentences imposed in the past, a prison sentence sometimes makes him realize that a disciplined way of life is better than the one he has followed; but even here the prospects of a change of lifestyle are not good.

In 1989 the Prison Rules laid down that the main object of imprisonment was rehabilitation, but experience has shown that in the case of mature prisoners it is seldom achieved. For the recidivist the prospect of another custodial sentence does not seem to be a deterrent; but while he is in prison he cannot commit more offences. What then is the value of such sentences?

Custodial sentences are a way, often the only way, in which society can show that it will not tolerate certain kinds of behaviour; and the severity of the sentence demonstrates the public's degree of abhorrence. Someone who breaks into a house and steals the occupier's cherished possessions or who knocks down a

woman in the street to steal her handbag is, most would agree, a pest. He does not stop being a pest because he has had a deprived childhood, an authoritarian father or an over-indulgent mother — explanations for criminal conduct sometimes offered by probation officers.

The available non-custodial sentences — suspended sentences, fines and compensation, probation and attendance-centre orders — do not, in the opinion of many people, indicate the degree of abhorrence in which housebreaking and robbery should be held.

A recent research project revealed that 52 per cent of the female victims of housebreaking suffered intense fear, shaking and shivering. For them, and their relatives and friends, a compensation order, and no more, against the offender would probably seem wholly inadequate. Anyway, compensation orders and fines are useless if the offender has no assets and no reasonable prospects of acquiring any — and the majority of offenders are in that position.

These alternatives must always be considered, of course, and judges and magistrates might also consider whether the conventional sentences — the so-called tariff sentences — are not too long. Many of them came to be considered appropriate after the Criminal Justice Act 1948, which emphasized the value of training as part of a custodial sentence; indeed, the Home Office suggested to judges that a sentence of less

than 12 months did not give enough time for useful training.

The courts should also remember that a former governor of Wandsworth Prison said about sentences: that only the first three months was punishment, the rest a bearable nuisance.

Suspended sentences can be appropriate for first offenders, but experience has shown that they have little deterrent effect on persistent offenders; and when they fail to deter, prison overcrowding is exacerbated because, on reconviction, the offender has to serve not only the appropriate sentence for his new offence but the whole, or at least part, of the suspended sentence.

Further, as recent disquiet about sentences for rape has shown, the courts must pay some regard to what right-thinking people consider to be a just sentence. If they do not, confidence in the administration of justice is weakened and there is a danger that some victims of crime will themselves impose what they consider to be a just punishment.

The courts cannot isolate themselves from the society in which they exist. They are not evangelists, trying to change society; nor are they welfare agencies. Their function is to do justice, and if that calls for a custodial sentence, then a custodial sentence should be imposed, and its length should be what justice requires it to be.

Sir Frederick Lawton was a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1972-86.

John Burton weighs the advantages and drawbacks of dole with strings attached

The case for the Workfare state

reducing exchequer outgoings and raising tax revenues. Others still — "cash only" plumbers and so forth — would perhaps forgo their benefits to retain their more lucrative earnings in the black economy. On all counts, recorded unemployment would fall.

The practical difficulties are not insignificant but are by no means insurmountable. It would require the re-integration of the benefit systems (now run by the Department of Health and Social Security) and employment placement and training services (now run by the Manpower Services Commission) under the aegis of a single organization; the re-introduction of compulsory registration at job centres for benefit to be obtained (abolished in 1982 under the "Rayner reforms" in order to economize on staff); and it would require the expansion of existing employment measures, such as the Youth Training Scheme and the Community Programme, and the strengthening of the government's Restart Programme, under which all long-term unemployed are being interviewed to assess their job prospects and to offer them the Community and other programmes. All this could probably

be achieved within three to five years, removing perhaps a million people from the ranks of the long-term unemployed.

Ralph Howell argues that the saving to the taxpayers could be £8,000 million at 1984 prices. Other advocates, such as Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University, are more cautious, but still believe that savings could be made.

My own studies suggest that both estimates are over-optimistic. It seems most likely that a Workfare scheme that removed one million people from long-term unemployment would add at least £850 million to public spending, and even this assumes that the programme's administrators would keep to the tightly controlled cost levels associated with the current Community Programme.

(The attempt to convert a Workfare programme into a public works programme — for example, using long-term unemployed to build the Channel tunnel — would greatly increase the costs, perhaps by up to 16 times.) American experience with Workfare to date suggests that the initial hopes of great savings for

the taxpayer — as envisaged by (then) Governor Ronald Reagan in California in the 1970s — proved to be illusory.

So, should we adopt Workfare or not? Such a system would be most unlikely to be a costless solution to the problem of long-term unemployment. Nor is it likely to be politically painless — trade unions and employers would undoubtedly object if they found that their economic interests were harmed by substitution of Workfare work for "their" work.

But then we also have to remember that in economic life as elsewhere there is no such thing as a free lunch. And there is much to be said for a scheme that could, if carefully designed and controlled, reduce long-term unemployment by a million at an exchequer cost that is not large in comparison with many spending programmes.

Moreover, the American evidence increasingly indicates that participation in Workfare tends to increase subsequent employability, and is generally liked by programme participants and the public. Only a decade ago it was talked of as a somewhat cranky conservative idea, but today it enjoys extensive support across the political divide.

Perhaps the same can be made true in Britain. Moreover, we might also remember that the first proponent of a thorough Workfare system was not Ronald Reagan in the 1970s but Lord Beveridge, founding father of the British welfare state, in his famous 1942 report on social insurance. John Burton's *World Workfare* is published today by the Employment Research Centre of the University of Buckingham.

Anne Sofer

The making of militancy

After watching the depressing scenes of militancy and frustration among the teacher unions at their Easter conferences, I have over the past few days constantly been recalling two private conversations. Both came from having lived for some years with the problems of the Inner London Teachers' Association.

The first memory is of a furious row I had with Ken Livingstone in January 1981 — the only real row I ever had with this generally genial politician. I was at the time the chairman of the Inner London Education Authority schools sub-committee and an argument was raging within the Labour group — of which I was then a member — about whether teachers who went on unofficial strike should be disciplined. My own view was that they should. However worthy one might think the cause, our duty to keep the schools running was paramount. Protest action against government cuts and local government legislation was beginning to spread, and if we condoned sympathy walk-outs that were not sanctioned by the national teacher unions, children's education could be seriously disrupted.

So I argued, but the view was not popular among the left-wingers, and particularly not among those candidates for the forthcoming GLC/ILEA election who were already intimating that there would be a relentless clearing out of the old guard come the true socialist victory in May (as indeed there was). The left in the constituencies was also growing stronger: I was censured, for instance, by my own local party on this very issue. Surely, the argument went, we must support all workers in the struggle against a Tory government.

Ken Livingstone was the leader of this faction. He caused an open split in the Labour ranks in the committee, accusing me and others of treachery. I went afterwards to his office to remonstrate with him. "If you have your way, Ken," I told him, "we shall have the teachers out marching or manning a picket line every other week. He turned to me that volatile grin that subsequently charmed millions on television, and said: "And that's why we don't want them disciplined."

The victory of the left in ILEA in 1981, and the subsequent growth of militancy in the Inner London Teachers' Association, were thus intertwined from the start. The Labour left-wingers who took over at County Hall were the political comrades-in-arms of those teachers who, within the unions, were attempting to topple their own "old guard". Some of them came from the same entryist sects — the International Socialists, the International Marxists and others. Others aligned themselves with the left but belonged to no particular faction. Many clustered around the newly created London Labour Briefing.

One of the first demands the teachers made on the new administration was for a revision of the disciplinary procedures. An amnesty on previous offences was declared, and a new code was drawn up. This new code allowed four incidents of unofficial industrial action before any serious disciplinary measures were taken, and this brought a period of peace.

However, within a short time,

some teachers had notched up their four offences. There were, after all, plenty of good causes: marching in support of the miners' strike, against police "brutality", resisting redeployment... So disciplinary proceedings started, and all hell broke loose, with all Labour members under pressure from teacher activists in the party.

Again, in the summer of 1985, the disciplinary procedures were frozen. Any attempts to discipline teachers or to oblige them to cover for absence were dropped. Militancy, repeatedly winning all the battles, gained increasing numbers of adherents. The growing strength of the left within the Inner London Teachers' Association and its paralysing effect on London's education has thus been a long, slow and very effective build-up. Only now, after six years of collusion and concession, has the ILEA leadership decided to take a stand against it — possibly too late. And meanwhile the contagion has spread to other parts of the country.

My second memory has a somewhat different political message. This is a conversation I had a year ago with a member of the ILTA in a pub after a meeting. She had come up to congratulate me on my speech: "You said it well, but I don't agree with you." She was a young woman of great warmth and vitality who had been an accountant for two years but gave it up to go into teaching, at a lower salary. "So you see, for me it's not the money," she said, "but what the government is doing to education." She had taken part in every sort of industrial action going, while insisting she was "not a Trot", indeed not even interested in politics.

It was the cuts she couldn't take. When I pointed out there were no cuts in her school, she conceded that, but said she was demonstrating for the schools in Lambeth and Southwark. So I told her they were part of ILEA too, and there had been no cuts there. She looked a little puzzled, but replied fervently that she would "rather give up teaching than stop the action".

This girl is probably representative of many teachers at Eastbourne and Bournemouth. She is naive, glib, very young, not as well informed as she should be, and very angry. Certainly she is being exploited by calculating Trotskyist elements. But she has many qualities that teaching needs: idealism, energy, even a grudging fair-mindedness. Had she felt valued by the powers-that-be, all that might have been very differently channelled.

So now we are caught in a bind. The more frustrated teachers become, the more disruptive they get, the more public sympathy they lose, the less valued they feel. Somebody has got to break into the spiral. And since it is primarily the Conservatives who have been preaching for eight years a message of low valuation and esteem for the public services generally, it is Kenneth Baker who must be the man to do it. He should begin by agreeing to start discussions now on a new negotiating machinery for next year's pay settlement. The symbolic importance of that relatively small move could hardly be overestimated.

The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

Simon Barnes

True — and you can quote me

"What a marvellous quote," someone said to me the other day. I was gratified: "Yes, it was a wonderful thing for him to say. You can imagine how pleased I was when he came out with it." There was a slight, and rather embarrassed, pause. "You mean, he actually said it?"

Got it in one, I replied. I am writing pieces for a newspaper, not fragments of a Work In Progress. Every time I have said "said", it is because the person said what I said he said. Or I said she said. It is only necessary to make things up if you are totally without imagination; people say interesting things all the time. All you have to do is listen, with your mind in gear. What people really say is usually more interesting and relevant than what they would have said, had they been a character in your novel.

But people find it impossible to believe that anyone quoted in newspapers has, in truth, spent all his life speaking in prose. When a surfer told me that riding a wave was "like being one of those insects that mate once and die", I was congratulated on my powers of invention. "But he really said it!" Wise and cynical smiles were all my reward.

Reporters are doomed to be seen forever as myriad-minded men of the imagination, men with a huge appetite for inventing dialogue, men who knock Shakespeare into a cocked hat. For a reporter, it seems, an interview subject is no more than a glove puppet, a monologuing Sooty whose sweet cadences of speech stem entirely from the vibrant imaginings of puppet-master.

The reporter could easily get carried away when he sees such a delightful image of himself in the world's eyes. But there is one certain way of restoring a sense of balance: try your hand at fiction. All of us seem to have lapses in that direction every now and then;

the glory of winning the South China Morning Post Short Story Competition 1982 will be forever mine.

It is not always a mistake to write fiction, but it is invariably wrong to show it to one's friends. They know you make up every line of your newspaper reports; show them some genuine fiction and they come back with the following literary assessment: "Paul is really you, isn't he, and Tassim is that girl who became a Buddhist doctor, right? And Stephen is that bloke she married who you always hated, though that bit about you all getting drunk in the Chinese restaurant and then going tepin bowling actually happened when you were with Chloe, that's it, isn't it?"

A work of fiction by someone you know has nothing to do with literature. It is a mixture of crossword puzzles and gossip; to a friend even a *roman à clef*. A friend's novel is not a piece of writing, it is a dead give-away. "I knew you were still carrying a torch for that Buddhist girl and her mantras." Your toughly ironical conclusion impresses your friends only as an admission of eternal disappointment about events ten years old. No one believes that a fiction writer is able to invent a single thing: everything he produces is forever seen as the most rigorous piece of documentary reporting ever produced. It is only when one turns to factual reporting that one's imaginative powers get any credit at all.

Did Frost have that trouble? Did his friends read his paperclips and say: "Aha! Albertine is really your chauffeur, isn't she? And we've all worked out who Charles is, but we aren't tell old Montesquieu... On the whole, I expect he did. And I expect it infuriated him. Well, if he wanted credit for his imaginative powers, he should have been a sports writer."



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THE TRAGEDY OF SRI LANKA

In less than two decades Sri Lanka has been transformed. The legendary isle of serenity has become the scene of one of the bloodiest communal conflicts of our time. This week's killings in Trincomalee and Colombo and the reprisals that have already begun are but the latest and most gruesome reminder of how deep and bitter is the ethnic division on the island.

The Sri Lankan conflict has its roots in the sectarian differences between the island's majority Sinhalese and its minority Tamils. The Sinhalese, who are Buddhists, were the political successors to the British Raj at independence in 1948. At the time they adopted a "Sinhala-first" policy to rectify what they perceived as the Raj's historical preference for Hindu Tamils.

The promotion of Sinhalese interests, however, led directly to feelings of discrimination among the Tamils. The minority community, which had once dominated the civil service, the judiciary and the professions, now felt excluded from the mainstream of Sri Lanka's political life. The failure of Sinhalese Sri Lankans to find a way of stemming Tamil resentment led to the emergence of separate Tamil politics and later to guerrilla movements demanding Tamil independence.

This historical background may go some way towards explaining the tensions at the root of the continuing violence. But this week's brutal killings of Sinhalese civilians must be no less abhorred for that. Even though the Tamil guerrilla groups - mindful of

the adverse publicity such indiscriminate murders bring - have been quick to deny responsibility both for the Good Friday massacre and for Tuesday's bombs, precedent points unambiguously in their direction.

As a group, the Tamils have hitherto enjoyed generous international sympathy. Atrocities of this order, however, only damage their cause. They also provide the Sri Lankan government with a pretext for striking at Tamil camps in the north - so meeting violence with violence. If President Jayawardene now gives way to pressure from hardliners for a military solution, this can only lead to further conflict and ultimately to civil war.

The present upsurge in violence can be ended only by a political solution in which an attempt is made to resolve the long-standing bitterness between the two communities. One explanation for this week's killings is that it signals once again the rejection by the Tamil guerrilla groups of a political settlement. Tamil political leaders must recognize, publicly, the self-defeating nature of such action.

So far there have been almost four years of fruitless negotiations between Tamil leaders and the Sri Lankan government. But the blame for failure does not lie entirely with the Tamils. President Jayawardene has prevaricated. He has offered concessions at one set of talks only to cast doubt on them or even withdraw them at the next. As a

result, his own position has been weakened and so has that of the Indian government which has until now acted as mediator.

Now that regional mediation has patently failed, there is perhaps a chance in mediation from further afield. The Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr Sonny Ramphal, might be a suitable figure to bring the two sides together for a fresh start. He is sufficiently detached from the conflict to be seen by both sides as neutral, while being sufficiently committed to a settlement, by virtue of his Commonwealth office, to engage in the long and painstaking negotiation that will be required.

The basis for a possible settlement may lie in President Jayawardene's so-called "December 19" proposals. These provided, among other things, for Tamil areas to be given a degree of autonomy and for a division of the Eastern province to meet Tamil demands for greater participation in government.

The problem is that the President's commitment to these proposals has appeared to waver in recent months. At a new set of talks with a new mediator he would have an opportunity to renew his commitment. The Tamils, for their part, their cause weakened by this week's barbaric killings, might be more open to a compromise along these lines than they were before. Today the outlook seems grim, but deep in the ashes of this week's tragedies may yet lie the seeds of eventual peace.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN ESTONIA

Karl Linna, aged 67, the Estonian deported to the Soviet Union for war crimes, is "a mass murderer", says the US Justice Department. That was why the Department, after extradition requests from the Soviet Union, went before the American courts and began the process which led to his being returned to his homeland this week.

The Justice Department says that, to secure Linna's deportation, it did not simply accept the evidence provided by the Soviet Union. The Department's lawyers examined the case against him themselves, prepared their own evidence, and were satisfied that he committed the crimes for which extradition was sought. Eventually, the American courts were satisfied too.

The United States has a legal system founded on the same principles as our own. They are principles which are common to all the most civilized countries in the world, of which the Soviet Union is not one. If America's Justice Department and courts say that this man is a mass murderer, their word deserves to be accepted. If the Soviet Union alone says it, that is not good enough.

The Soviet Union's periodic demands for the extradition of alleged war criminals, from the United States and elsewhere, are not the result of disinterested processes of investigation and justice. That does not mean that the men being extradited are necessarily innocent.

Extradition demands are political weapons to be used, or not used, when it suits the Soviet government. They can be used to depict the United States as a harbourer of fas-

cists, or they can show the Soviet people that their government constantly remembers the sufferings of the second world war - one of the few emotions which unites people and government. Or they can be a means of convincing the world that the Soviet Union occupies the high moral ground. The world should not let itself be convinced.

Linna was an Estonian. Estonia was a wholly independent nation state forced into the Soviet Union - with her neighbours, Latvia and Lithuania in the summer of 1940 under the terms of the Nazi-Soviet pact of August, 1939. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June, 1941, Linna appears to have been one of many Estonian nationalists who threw in their lot with the Germans.

According to the Soviet Union and the US Justice Department, he directed firing squads and ordered the extermination of men, women, and children who died kneeling at the edge of a mass grave. He is said personally to have shot several of them. These are terrible crimes - but such crimes were not committed by just one of the great powers in that region during that period.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania fell victim to Stalin's "nationalities" policy - a euphemism for ridding people of the idea that they are a nation. Some four per cent of the Estonian population - the "bourgeoisie" - was deported to labour camps and exile settlements in Siberia and Central Asia. Both deportations and settlements were accompanied by the usual brutalities.

Ridding a nation of people with powers of leadership also

lay behind the Katyn Forest massacre of Polish officers in Soviet hands as a result of another consequence of the Nazi-Soviet pact: the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland. To deport and massacre such large numbers of people is a job that could only have been done by a great many Soviet soldiers and officials.

All over the Soviet Union there are undoubtedly many 67 year-olds who committed crimes which were perhaps as terrible as those of Linna. If Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland were still independent states, they would have every right to seek the extradition of such men from the Soviet Union. Moreover, if the Soviet Union is so concerned to punish those who committed the crimes of long ago, it need look no further than within its own borders.

Given the ages of some of the people who must have been involved, Moscow's legal authorities would surely find - still alive - many a cog in the machine of Stalinist mass murder. When it serves a propaganda purpose, Moscow likes to chide Federal Germany with not doing enough about old Nazis.

Officially, the Soviet Union renounces the Stalinist past, as Germany renounces the Nazi past. But there has been nothing in the Soviet Union comparable with the trial of former Auschwitz guards in West Germany in the 1960s. There would have been plenty of retired Siberian or Central Asian guards still available to fill the dock. Naturally, such proceedings seem impossible. But that is worth remembering the next time the Soviet Union depicts itself as the avenger of mid-century ideological murder.

A DIET AGAINST DISEASE

Someone in Britain dies of heart disease every four minutes - a rate that is among the highest in the world. Nearly half of Britons questioned in a recent survey confessed that they had so far made no effort to avoid the risk of falling victim to it. Whether this is due to ignorance or bravado is unclear - although questionnaires suggest that many now have at least an inkling of the dangers.

Health education, if properly used, is arguably the most cost-effective branch of medicine. It is always difficult to quantify the precise cost to society of a killer disease but the national bill for heart disease has been estimated at an annual £450m. Compared to that the £2.5m being spent within the next twelve months on the Look After Your Heart campaign looks cheap.

The campaign has already run into criticism. Some think that it is too timid, for example

in not taking on the tendentious issue of food labelling. Others think it to be an unwarranted interference in the freedom to breakfast on saturated fats if one so chooses. But its general direction is along the right lines. Ministerial admonitions on smoking, eating and exercising are hardly music to the ears of a free citizen. But they contain good grains of truth.

The politicians may, of course, be setting their sights unreasonably high. To expect a worker living in the insecurity of modern industrial Britain, to give up cigarettes, cut down on beer, stop eating chips, run round the park on Sunday mornings - and stop worrying, would be to ask too much.

The best that Mr Fowler, Mrs Currie and their colleagues can hope for is increased awareness and gradual change - the six pints a night reduced to four, chips three

days a week instead of five, a little more walking to work. The battle against cigarette smoking (against which the evidence is a good deal stronger than much of that concerning diet) was not won in a day. It was waged slowly over a number of years and began to gather pace long after the links between cigarettes and lung cancer were proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Another complaint is that the Government campaign offers insufficient guidance on the domestic economics of good living. Fresh fish, wholemeal bread, and vegetables are certainly cheaper than much of the "junk food" now available. No one should suggest the state-financed marketing of rigid diets whose long-term efficacy is anyway debatable. But there may be an argument for pointing out some of the home truths that were clearer to our ancestors than they are today.

Keeping pressure on S Africa

From Mr Anthony Sampson
Sir, In his articles (April 13, 14) on South Africa Mr T. E. Uley admits that he must abandon his prejudice against constitutional reform, but persists in a still more irrational prejudice, that sanctions only intensify the opposition of whites "to any sort of reform".

Does he seriously believe that the election campaign of the leading defector from the Nationalist party, the former Ambassador to London, Mr Denis Worrall, is not connected with the imposition of sanctions - financed as it is by Cape wine-growers, fruit farmers and an Afrikaaner international tobacco company, all of them seriously threatened by diminishing overseas markets?

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY SAMPSON,
27 Ladbroke Grove, W11.
April 14.

From Mr W. E. Grenville-Grey
Sir, Mr Uley begs us to leave the South Africans alone to sort out their problems in their own good time. Benign neglect, Sir, is not a policy, it is an abdication.

Throughout this century the Africans of South Africa have repeatedly sent delegations to Britain asking us to protect their interests. Mostly we have promised much and delivered little. Are we now to let them down once again because we decline to use our still considerable influence to work with all races to achieve brisk, but not breakneck progress towards majority rule?

Yours faithfully,
W. E. GRENVILLE-GREY,
Dippenhall,
Farnham, Surrey,
April 14.

From Mr Donald Woods
Sir, Mr T. E. Uley's hosts in South Africa, the South African Government, must be delighted with his message: leave them alone.

He writes as if a one-man, one-vote system is an aberration rather than a basic definition of democracy and suggests that all that stops Pretoria reforming the system is sanctions. Yet that government has not, in 39 sanctions-free years, shown any inclination towards democracy.

Mr Uley says there is a need to show that the African National Congress does not represent the majority of blacks, yet he dismisses the only civilised way of determining this - by vote.

There are more than 25,000 political prisoners in South Africa today, none of whom, presumably, was consulted by Mr Uley during his brief visit. Indeed, his articles suggest that he spent most of his time with whites.

Yours etc,
DONALD WOODS,
PO Box 130A,
Sutton, Surrey,
April 14.

Ferry disaster

From Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS, FEng

Sir, Dr G. F. Wood (April 20) would replace lawyers at the head of disaster inquiries by scientists and engineers. It does not help their standing to put them in a position outside their abilities. An inquiry which decides on responsibility for a disaster demands independence, knowledge of the law (often other countries') and the respect from advocates for the chairman. Technical assessors have an important role in helping to provide him with impartial assessment, in which they can act more effectively than the court expert in the field of Continental civil law.

The organizations of scientists and engineers have always striven to enlarge the professional standing of their members by promoting additional qualification throughout life in areas affecting the public interest, within necessary limits.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK WARNER,
University of Essex,
Colchester, Essex,
April 21.

Butter to USSR

From the Secretary General of the United Kingdom Provision Trade Federation Ltd.

Sir, The latest sale of butter to Russia of 200,000 tonnes at a price of 34p per 250g packet, compared with the 50p the UK consumer has to pay, again graphically illustrates what a real deal we are having.

Although there is an urgent need to dispose of the enormous stocks in the EEC in order to return to some semblance of a normal supply and demand situation none of the sales to Russia will be from UK stocks as they do not like our type of butter. Instead most of our stored butter, in perfect condition, is being sold for animal feed at even lower prices than that for the Russians.

Persistent campaigning by this organisation to the Government to introduce a half-price sale of butter has met with consistent refusal on the grounds that it would simply replace sales of fresh butter. This latter view we disagree with as a properly marketed sale would increase consumer demand.

More recently the amount of subsidy available for butter sold to those on social security and assistance was doubled, but there is still no sign of the UK taking advantage of this.

Finally, why not extend the free butter for the needy scheme in some way? The current scheme, which finished on March 31, moved 14,000 tonnes of UK butter in a very short space of time and shows how popular butter still is.

The right type of scheme, organised by those who have spent a lifetime in selling and distributing butter, rather than the bureaucrats in Brussels and Whitehall, would ensure some of the butter at least would be eaten by those who have paid for it in the first place, that is, the UK consumer and taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
A. CHANDLER,
Secretary General,
United Kingdom Provision Trade Federation Ltd.,
17 Clerkenwell Green, EC1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wider fears on teaching of Latin

From Mr Richard Woff
Sir, The recent articles and letters in your columns regarding the teaching of Latin have done much to highlight the alarming decline of the subject in the maintained schools. However, it is of great importance to realise that the threats to Latin are not confined to the ILEA and to a few other local education authorities.

Over the last two years the Latin Committee of the Joint Association of Classical Teachers has received details of the position of Latin in some 315 maintained schools spread across the country. Of these 315 schools, nearly a quarter were in danger of losing Latin from their curriculum and a further one in 10 had already lost their Latin or were certainly about to do so.

As these schools were expressly identified by LEA (local education authority) advisers as places where Latin was taught, we have no reason to believe that responses from additional schools in the same or in other local education authorities would improve the picture - in fact, quite the reverse is likely to be the case.

Out of 15 comprehensives in one urban LEA in the North only one offers its pupils the chance to study Latin. In a neighbouring authority, which has a two-tier system of 47 11-16 schools and nine sixth-form colleges, staff at four of the sixth-form colleges face retraining or redeployment, which will rob all 16-year-olds in their area of any opportunity of studying classical subjects to A level and is likely to lead to the complete disappearance of the subjects from that part of the authority.

In the same authority the five 11-16 schools where Latin is taught operate with the equivalent of only three classics teachers. Even where Latin is surviving rather better, time available and staffing are far from adequate: we have evidence of a sixth-form college where a classics department which attracts more than 120 students each year operates with just one teacher!

It is clear that Latin and classics

in general are in a highly precarious position and that action must be taken if the subjects are not to disappear entirely from our maintained schools. The climate is right for this action to be taken now. The Department of Education and Science has recently taken a long, hard look at the teaching of modern languages. The Kingman committee is currently considering the teaching of English language. The heritage languages of ethnic minority pupils are deservedly receiving greater attention.

Amidst all this activity centred on language, the different sort of linguistic experience offered by the classical languages deserves serious consideration. In addition, current talk of a national curriculum offers the opportunity for all those concerned to ensure that the contribution the classical subjects can make both to the core curriculum and to any system of options which is to become statutory is promoted and protected.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WOFF (Chairman,
Latin Committee, Joint Association of Classical Teachers),
King's College London (KQC),
Centre for Educational Studies,
Chelsea Campus,
352 King's Road, SW10.

Meeting the Greeks

From Mr I. E. Jones
Sir, May I strongly support Lord Lloyd's plea (April 11) for Greek, and also commend it as an exploration for the less young, I started nearly two years ago and, at 74, find it of absorbing interest. It really is a delightful language.

I eased myself in through the Gospels and have just begun Homer. It will be quite something to hear the far-off trumpets of the Bronze Age through his very words.

Yours faithfully,
I. E. JONES,
29 Coudon Road,
Sidmouth,
Devon,
April 14.

Places in industry

From the Deputy Headmaster of Arnold School, Blackpool

Sir, At a recent conference I attended on careers in electronics, representatives of major companies in the field told us of qualifications needed by students to gain their university sponsorship in engineering. They all require as a minimum A-level passes at grade C or above in mathematics, physics and one other subject.

One company told us that last year out of 1,142 applications they had awarded sponsorships to 28 candidates whose A-level grades were at least three Bs. Of those successful a majority had four A-level passes and most of the candidates had two or more passes at grade A. That there is much competition for a limited number of sponsorships is hardly the fault of A-level in particular or education in general.

At my own school there is much worthwhile co-operation with industry in which many of our bright young men and women wish to pursue a career. But there

is fierce competition for places in higher education in such subjects as engineering and for industrial sponsorships.

The Council for Industry and Higher Education says (report, April 1) industry requires graduates who are "horses for courses and not expensive racemasters for everything" and condemns A-levels as a "convenient ticket for limiting entry to a small academic world". Yet no institution uses A-levels more rigorously in its selection process than those represented on the council.

One wonders if the captains of industry and vice-chancellors know what is happening in their own organisations. If industry wishes to alleviate its problem, then surely it must help itself and not go with begging bowl to the Government, as your leader of April 1 points out.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. STIRK,
Deputy Headmaster,
Arnold School,
Blackpool,
Lancashire,
April 2.

Fever and fury

From Mr Gordon M. L. Smith

Sir, Joseph Connolly (feature, March 30) rightly appeals for a respite from the endless media talk about "election fever", when in fact there is no fever. Similarly, the word "fury" is now applied indiscriminately to any politician's imaginary attitude to some pinprick.

The Prime Minister is described almost every day as being in a fury over some trivial issue, when she is clearly perfectly calm, and decisive. The public are entitled to be spared both fever and fury during the election.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON M. L. SMITH,
Boodle's,
St James's Street, SW1,
March 30.

Chaucer memorial

From Dr Peter Brown

Sir, Surely one reason for the 600-year absence of a Chaucer memorial in Canterbury (letter, April 13) lies in the nature of his association with the city. Chaucer is not to Canterbury as Shakespeare is to Stratford; Chaucer was not born in or near Canterbury and did not live there.

From the surviving records it is reasonable to infer that Chaucer knew the city as a visitor, but there is no extant document which proves conclusively that he ever set foot inside the gates. Christopher Marlowe, who was born and educated in Canterbury, is remembered by a statue and by an eponymous theatre.

It is true that Chaucer put Canterbury on the literary map, but even in the *Canterbury Tales* the city itself is not realised except as a destination: the pilgrims never arrive.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BROWN,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
Faculty of Humanities,
Darwin College,
Canterbury, Kent,
April 16.

School of princes

From Miss Dorothy Parr

Sir, Paul Johnson (feature, April 4) emphasises that in earlier times history was called "the school of princes". It reminded me of a story told to me by the late Dame Margery Perbam.

I went up to St Hugh's College, Oxford, in 1915, a year after her. Her brother Edgar was up at the Queen's College.

Edgar (killed on the Somme the next year) was coached by a well-known Oxford personality, a fellow of All Souls. Edgar was waiting to see his tutor one day when the door opened to reveal the Prince of Wales, the late Duke of Windsor, who was up at Magdalen.

Edgar heard, "Remember the Bourbons, my dear Sir. Remember the Bourbons."

As the Prince of Wales left he turned to Edgar and said, "Who the Hell were the Bourbons?"

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY PARR,
3 Parnoor Court,
Oxford,
April 13.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 23 1926

Sir George Wilkins (1888-1958) won the M.C. and bar in the First World War as an aerial photographer before embarking on the exploration by air of the unknown areas north of Alaska. His pilot, Carl Eiselein, was Norwegian. The landing described was on Dead Man's Island, one of the Spitzbergen group.

FLIGHT OVER THE ARCTIC

AIRMEN'S GREAT ADVENTURE.

FROM ALASKA TO SPITZBERGEN.

CAPTAIN WILKINS'S STORY.

(Copyright by "The Times" in Great Britain.)

... Suddenly two sharp peaks, almost needle-pointed, appeared beneath us. Down we spun, through a break in the clouds, for a closer view. The air was turbulent above the heavy clouds.

... Mr. Eiselein's valuable training and skill then proved their worth. With the aeroplane nose down and the engine full on, he held her as she bucked like a bronco, but he held the upper hand.

As we were running short of petrol, the safest procedure was to find the smooth spot we had noticed and try to land.

A LANDING.

I asked Mr. Eiselein to do this. Practically blindfolded by the snow and oil on his windshield, he landed with the same skill and perception with which he brought down our aeroplane in the dark on the ice near Point Barrow a year ago. ... Our non-stop coast-to-coast flight had ended. We had been 20 hours 30 minutes in the air. ...

For the next four days there was no opportunity to judge our position more accurately. ... The drifts, 4ft deep, formed about and over the skis of the monoplane, fortunately held her fast to the ice. Otherwise she would have toppled during the gusts. We were housed comfortably in the snug wind-proof cabin of the monoplane, eating biscuits and chocolate, smoking the few cigarettes we had, and patiently waiting for the weather to clear.

... It was not until Saturday at 3 a.m. that the weather was again fit for flying. ... We were soon to find that our decision not to land on the peak-ice with a half-load was wise. The tanks now held about 20 gallons of petrol. With that and two of us the machine would not budge an inch. When I got out and pushed the tail she started finely, but to climb in as she was moving was difficult. The first time I hung to the step and tried to climb in, but soon fell off. Mr. Eiselein, unable to see behind from the pilot's seat, thought I was in, and took off. When he turned, he saw me forlorn on the ice. He circled and landed again. I then hung out a rope-ladder provided for just such an emergency, and decided to hang on to it as best I could.

We started again, and as the machine gathered speed I climbed to the tail and struggled desperately to gain the cockpit. My hands, free of mittens for better climbing, soon stiffened and became numb with cold. I grasped the rope with my teeth to help me hang on. Mr. Eiselein, feeling the weight on the tail, thought that I was safe, and took off, but just before he left the ground I slipped from the shiny fuselage, was struck by the tail of the machine, and flung on to the snow.

When I had cleared the snow from my eyes and mouth I found that I had escaped with no more harm than some loosened teeth. As I now sit and write I can rock every front tooth with my tongue. I expect that they will tighten up again in a day or so.

The next time I stuck one foot in the cockpit and pushed off while in a sitting position with driftwood found on the land. As soon as the machine moved I tumbled into the cockpit regardless of bruises, and off we climbed. ...

Victorian values

From Mr Peter Denman

Sir, Alice Thomas Ellis (Wednesday Page, April 8), with her gentle and domestic musing on Victorian times, can hardly have expected the awesome rebuke delivered in your columns on April 13 by Earl Kitchener of Khartoum. That rebuke, printed by coincidence beneath Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's Order to the Army of April 13, 1918, which contained phrases and sentences like "the most reckless sacrifice of human life" - admittedly German life - "Every position must be held to the last man" and "With our backs to the wall..." (words that must make Alice Thomas Ellis shudder), might have come from beyond the grave rather than from the House of Lords.

So pacific intervention runs a supernatural risk. Yet it is possible to hold consistently that the patriotism of Victorians "led to the horrors of 1914-1918" (Alice Thomas Ellis) and that "it led to many of our countrymen fighting and dying for the rule of international law and for the rights of small nations" (Earl Kitchener of Khartoum). The second opinion does not necessarily challenge the first.

It is pleasant to hear "the rights of small nations" once more. The expression, like the rights themselves, seems to "ride the calm mid-heaven" (Rupert Brooke).

Yours faithfully,
PETER DENMAN,
23 Lawrence Street,
Chelsea, SW3,
April 14.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 22: By command of the Queen, the Viscountess of Weymouth (Mrs. Weymouth) was present at the opening of the new wing of the Windsor Castle, which was opened by the Queen on the morning of the departure of the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and his wife, Queen Alia, on their way to the Port of London Authority at the Thames Navigation Service Building, Gravesend, Kent.

Her Royal Highness later opened the new wing of the Windsor Castle, which was opened by the Queen on the morning of the departure of the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and his wife, Queen Alia, on their way to the Port of London Authority at the Thames Navigation Service Building, Gravesend, Kent.

Princess Alexandra travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

Mrs Peter Asia was in attendance.

Lady Gabriella Windsor is six today.

A memorial service for Mr M.S. Topham will be held at the Sunningdale School on Saturday, April 25, at noon.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York, Patron of the Hearing and Speech Trust, will visit the Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology, Gray's Inn Road, at 10.30, and will visit the Royal College of Surgeons, at 12.30; later he will attend the Honorary Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons, at 1.30; and will be admitted as a member of the company, at 7.15.

Princess Anne, Master of the Carman's Company, will attend a court meeting and court dinner with the Royal Corps of Transport at Clothworkers' Hall at 3.45.

Princess Margaret will open the Theatre Museum, Covent Garden, at 6.45.

The Duke of Gloucester, President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, will visit the Rye Boys' Club at 9.30; the Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club at 10.40; the Central Boys' Club, Eastbourne, at 11.20; the Woodingdean Boys' Club, Brighton, at 12.20; the Tarring Boys' Club at 2.45; the Littlehampton Boys' Club at 3.20; the Chichester Boys' Club at 4.00 and the Crawley Boys' Club at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a reception to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Community Service Volunteers at St James's Palace at 6.00; and will attend a St George's Day Gilbert and Sullivan concert, arranged by the Gilbert and Sullivan Friends of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, at the Festival Hall at 7.20.

Birthdays today

Mrs Shirley Temple Black, 59; the Most Rev Michael Bowen, Archbishop of Southwark, 57; Lord Carew, 82; Mr Antony Craxton, television producer, 69; Mr J.P. Donleavy, author, 61; the Earl of Drogheda, 77; Baroness Dudley, 80; Sir Arnold Hall, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group, 72; Sir James Kirkup, writer, 64; Lord McAlpine of Moffat, 80; Colonel R.A.Sig. Martin, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 73; Lord Samuel of Wych Cross, 75; Sir Herbert Teley, actor, 79.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1564 (the centenary on this day, 1616); Joseph Mallord William Turner, London, 1775; James Buchanan, 15th president of the USA, 1857-61; Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, 1791; Max Planck, physicist, Kiel, 1858; Edward Henry Albee, 1st Viscount Alenby of Megiddo, field-marshal, Brackenhurst, Nottinghamshire, 1861; Miguel de Cervantes, novelist and dramatist, Madrid, 1616.

DEATHS: William Wordsworth, poet laureate 1843-50; Rydal Mount, Cumbria, 1850; Joseph Nollekens, sculptor, London, 1823; Robert Brooke, poet, Scyros, 1915.

Today is the Feast of Saint George, the patron saint of England (and of Aragon and Portugal).

Luncheon

HM Government: Baroness Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was held yesterday at a luncheon held at Lancaster House in honour of the High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda.

Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers: Mr James Shaw, President of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, was host at a luncheon held at 3 Cadogan Gate, SW1, yesterday.

Red Cross London Ball

The Red Cross London Ball takes place at the Hotel Intercontinental, London, on Wednesday, May 6, 1987, at 8.00 pm. Tickets at £45 are available from the British Red Cross Society London Branch at 3 Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EG.

Harrow School

Summer Term at Harrow begins today. A Woodhall (Elmfield) continues as head of school and D.C. Manasseh (Mortons) as captain of cricket. A Comedy of Errors will be performed in speech room on May 19, 20 and 21. Speech day will be on May 27 and the half-term break will end on speech day on May 31. The Eton v Harrow match will take place at Lord's on July 4 and term ends on July 10.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon Michael Pearson and Miss M.C. Cordle
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Viscount Cowdray, of Cowdray Park, Midhurst, Sussex, and Lady Anne Cordle, of Broadlands, Devizes, Wiltshire, and Marina, daughter of Mr John Cordle, of Malmesbury House, The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs Harry John Ross Skinner, of Warmwell House, Warmwell, near Dorchester, Dorset.

Mr H.F.J. Langley and Miss G.C. Sykes
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Major-General Sir Desmond and Lady Langley, of Aggroft Mill, Milland, West Sussex, and Georgina, daughter of Mr J.A.C. Sykes, of Bickton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and Mrs Philippa Sykes, of London, SW1.

Mr G.A. Addison-Willes and Miss E.M.A. Lawson
The engagement is announced between George Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs G.L. Addison-Willes, of Osborne House, Gosport, Hampshire, and Emma Mary, daughter of Captain and Mrs John Lawson, of Newton Ferrers, Devon.

Mr K.N.J. Bengtsson and Miss P.A. Hunter
The engagement is announced between Kjell Nils Ingmar, son of Mr and Mrs H. Bengtsson, of Kristianstad, Sweden, and Fiona Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Hunter, of London.

Mr T.C.E. Brown and Miss V.L. Barnard
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs P.G. Brown, of the Manor House, Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Vanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Barnard, of Tuxford, Nottinghamshire.

Mr J.H. Bush and Miss C.S. Spicer
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Dr and Mrs M.J. Hunter, of Prats de Mollo, France, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs T.T. Glancy, of Windermere, Cumbria.

Lieutenant-Commander D.F. Smith, RN, and Miss F. La Fontaine
The engagement is announced and the marriage will shortly take place in Petersfield, Hampshire, between David, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Frank C. Smith, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Frances, only daughter of M. Paul-Hector La Fontaine and the late Mme Gabrielle La Fontaine, of Hull, Province of Quebec, Canada.

Mr M.H. Carlisle and Miss S.E. O'Brien
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Dr and Mrs L.O. Carlisle, of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, and Sophie, second daughter of Mr and Mrs D.A. O'Brien, of Hammersmith, London.

Mr P.E. Cotton and Miss C.L. Pack
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Cotton, of Healey-on-Thames, and Rosie, daughter of Captain A.J. Pack, OBE, RN, and Mrs Pack, of Wickham, Hampshire.

Mr J.C. Hanson-Smith and Miss P. Newbury
The engagement is announced between Julian, only son of Mr and Mrs C.J. Hanson-Smith, of Foxley Lodge, Dorking, Surrey, and Pollyanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.M. Newbury, of Birthorpe Manor, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Mr H.R. Hunter and Miss F.C. Donoghue
The engagement is announced between Hugh Robin, younger son of Dr and Mrs M.J. Hunter, of Jersey, Channel Islands, and Frances Clare, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Donoghue, of Rutherglen, Glasgow.

Mr G.C. Otey and Miss C.J. Glancy
The engagement is announced between George, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G.E. Otey, of Prats de Mollo, France, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs T.T. Glancy, of Windermere, Cumbria.

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Mr C.D. Pratt and Miss C.L. Full
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr D.B. Pratt and Mrs P. Pratt, of Kitzbühel, Austria, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E. Full, of Southfields, London.

Mr A.S. Eston and Miss C.N. Venables
The engagement is announced between Anthony Sutherland, elder son of Mr and Mrs Iain Eston, of Dockfield, Surrey, and Charlotte Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Venables, of Upper Wrexall, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Mr R.E. Blyth Carlisle and Miss E.F. Creighton
The marriage took place on Wednesday, April 22, 1987, at St George's, Hanover Square, of George, son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Blyth Carlisle, of the Old Rectory, Upper Wootton Bassett, Berkshire, and Mrs Simone Creighton, of 16 Phillimore Gardens, London, W8, and Miss Emma Frances Creighton, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Creighton, of 5 Upper Brook Street, London, W1.

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Schools news

Bedford High School
Summer Term at Bedford High School begins today and ends on July 10, 1987. Miss D.M. Oner has taken up her appointment as Headmistress. The head girl is Katherine Wilson. The Parent's Association is holding its spring ball on April 25, with dancing to Kenny Guit and his Jazzmen.

Bedford School
Summer Term at Bedford School begins today with 1135 boys in the school. Confirmation will be conducted by the Right Rev J.B. Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, on May 3. The service in connection with the founders and benefactors takes place at 10.45 am on Sunday, May 17 in the School Chapel when the address will be given by the Right Rev D.J. Farnborough, Bishop of Bedford. Old Bedfordians Club, D.W. Young continues as head of school. J.A.C. Winton is captain of boats, and A.B. Cartmel is captain of cricket.

Brentwood School
Trinity Term at Brentwood School begins today. The school chamber concert will be held on May 13 and the middle school play will be performed from May 19 to 21. The Old Brentwood's annual dinner will be held on May 22. Half-Term is from May 22 to May 31. The junior school athletics finals and prize-giving will be held on Friday, July 3, and the feast of honour will be Mr George Cansdale (OB). The senior prize-giving will be on Saturday, July 4. The guest of honour will be Mr R.S. Sturtevant, of the Constable of Epsom, and the Preacher will be Canon Sebastian Charles. The promenade concert will be held in the Courage hall at 7.00 pm. Term ends on July 10.

Bromsgrove School
School convenes today at Bromsgrove for Summer Term. Headmaster is Mr J. S. L. Cooper, and Head Girl is Helen Cooper. Confirmation by the Bishop of Worcester will be on May 10. Old Bromsgrovians reunion dinners will be held on May 12 and June 12. The dramatic society will perform Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair* on May 19, 20 and 21. Commemoration day is on July 11 when the Cooke's Sermon will be preached by the Very Rev R.M.C. Jefferys, Dean of Worcester, and the guest speaker at the prize-giving will be Baroness Warnock, Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge. Term ends in the evening with the leavers' ball.

City of London School
Summer Term starts at City of London School today and ends on Wednesday, July 15. Half-term is from May 25 to 29. The Summer concert will be given on Thursday, May 22. The inaugural recital on the new Walker organ in the Great Hall will be given by Mr Thomas Trotter on Tuesday, April 28 and tickets may be obtained from the bursar at the school.

Dean Close School
Summer Term at Dean Close School begins today. Stephen Chua is head of school and Helen Pike is senior girl prefect. The academic scholars will be held on May 11 to 13. Prize-giving and commemoration is on June 6 when the principal guest will be Sir Kenneth Lewis.

St Albans School
Summer Term at St Albans School begins today. The school chamber concert will be held on May 13 and the middle school play will be performed from May 19 to 21. The Old St Albans's annual dinner will be held on May 22. Half-Term is from May 22 to May 31. The junior school athletics finals and prize-giving will be held on Friday, July 3, and the feast of honour will be Mr George Cansdale (OB). The senior prize-giving will be on Saturday, July 4. The guest of honour will be Mr R.S. Sturtevant, of the Constable of Epsom, and the Preacher will be Canon Sebastian Charles. The promenade concert will be held in the Courage hall at 7.00 pm. Term ends on July 10.

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OBITUARY

CANON HAROLD WINSTONE

Implementing liturgical renewal after Vatican II

Canon Harold Winstone, who died on Easter Day, at the age of 69, was a fervent liturgical reformer who was given the task of implementing in the Roman Catholic Church in Britain the liturgical changes approved by Vatican II and reconciling the clergy to them. He was born on March 3, 1917, at Barnet, north London, and was educated at Finchley Catholic Grammar School. His first job was selling insurance policies, but then he decided to try his vocation to the priesthood. He went to St Sulpice, Paris, but his time there was interrupted by the war, and he came back to St Edmund's College, Ware. After his ordination, in 1943, he went to St Edmund's House, Cambridge, and took a degree in classics. Subsequently, he taught classics at the college. While at Cambridge, Winstone was chaplain to a PoW camp. There, he met an Austrian who gave him his first enthusiasm for the possibility of creating what he felt to be a lively and spiritually fertile parish liturgy. Winstone's mother was German, and he used his bilingual gift to bring the work of contemporary German liturgical writers to England, translating the work of Pius Parsch and Jungmann. He was then asked to co-

operate with Fathers James Crichton and Clifford Howell, SJ, and with Donald Atwater in producing the *Layman's Missal*, which was published in 1961. He was a founding member - and, later, chairman - of the International Commission for English in the Liturgy, which had the task of producing an English translation broadly acceptable to all English-speaking countries. He gave of his time, too, to the National Liturgical Commission and worked with the International Commission for the English Text, producing the agreed text for the Nicene Creed and other parts of the liturgy. In 1969, Cardinal Heenan asked him to start a new north London parish at Manor House and, at the same time, to develop a centre for the study and development of liturgy. The immediate aftermath of Vatican II was a time of turmoil. Many priests and lay people found it difficult to accept the changes to the Mass, and even more difficult to put them into practice. Winstone, with his gentle sympathy and unerring centring on the way the church was developing her liturgy, built a solid foundation of trust among the clergy. He developed the Thomas More Centre which, although

primarily a Westminster diocesan organization, became a national focal point as a centre of innovation and change. As a result, Winstone found himself in demand both here and overseas. He was, as might be expected, an excellent communicator and his warmth and enthusiasm meant that he touched the hearts of many. Through his initiative, guidelines emerged for the rite of baptism, in which the parents of the child, quite apart from the godparents, were instructed in taking a more active role in the administration of the sacrament. He encouraged the development of music in the liturgy and especially the participation of the laity in liturgical music. He wanted more than just the choristers to raise their voices during the Mass. In 1979 he was made a canon of Westminster Cathedral, and in 1983 retired from the centre to run the parish of Knabworth, Hertfordshire, where he remained until the time of his death. Winstone wrote tirelessly on various aspects of liturgy in many Roman Catholic publications. His contribution was to give flesh-and-blood reality to the dry bones of the liturgical renewal. In this, he helped many to overcome their fear of change.

MR CARLOS BAKER

Mr Carlos Baker, American critic, editor, novelist and poet, died on April 18, at the age of 77. He is perhaps best known for his massive *Ernest Hemingway: A Life Story*, one of the major literary biographies of our time. Carlos Heard Baker was born at Biddeford, Maine, on May 5, 1909, of what he described as "Yankee and nineteenth century German stock." He was educated at Dartmouth College, and at Harvard and Princeton. One of America's foremost academics, he taught at Princeton from 1936 until his retirement from teaching in 1977. He was Woodrow Wilson Professor there from 1954, and was twice chairman of the English department. Before going to Princeton he had taught at Thornton Academy, Maine (1933-4) and at Nichols School, Buffalo, New York (1934-6). He was also Fulbright Lecturer at Oxford University in 1957-8. Baker's first book was *Shelley's Major Poetry: The Fabric of Vision* (1949). This looked at the poet's developing thought between 1812 and

1822, and attempted to present him not as a lyrical but as a philosophical and psychological poet. It is still an influential work, and no serious student of Shelley can ignore it, for it provides perhaps the first sound basis upon which the actual worth of the poet's thought may be judged. It was also important for showing that Shelley had definite religious beliefs. Baker followed this with a critical study, *Hemingway: The Writer as Artist* (1952), a brilliant interpretative - rather than strictly critical - work, and the best on his subject to date. It was rivalled only by Philip Young's book on Hemingway, the first version of which appeared in the same year. Hemingway, who helped Baker with it, himself admired the final product, and said so, objecting only that it "made too much of the symbols." After Hemingway's suicide in 1963, Baker was appointed his official biographer. *Ernest Hemingway: A Life Study* duly appeared in 1969, and soon became the standard book.

In one sense it must always stand as such, because every succeeding biographer and critic has to consult it. It is a patient and painstaking study in depth, a model of conscientiousness, rightly leaving the final verdict to the reader. It begins to emerge as outstanding because of its essential trustworthiness and lack of airs and graces. Baker had a number of anthologies and two books of verse to his credit. He also wrote three novels and a collection of short stories, *The Talismans* (1976), *A Friend in Power* (1958) is a readable, good-natured story, of academic life; *The Land of Rumbelow: A Fable in the form of a Novel* (1964), more ambitious, also has its admirers. *The Gay Head Conspiracy* (1973) is a competent novel of suspense. As a writer of verse, Baker was praised for his greatness and epigrammatic skill. He married, in 1932, Dorothy Thomasson Scott, who survives him with their three children.

MR GEORGE HEATH-GRACIE

Mr George Heath-Gracie, FRGO, organist, who, during a lengthy tenure at Derby Cathedral, created a choir of standing, died on April 20. He was 94. George Handel Heath-Gracie was educated at Bristol Grammar School. He had started to learn the piano at the age of four, in South Africa, but his first performance on the organ was in England when he was 12. Hitherto, he had sung in a church choir, but one Easter Day the organist failed to arrive, and the young chorister was asked to deputise. He then became the church's assistant organist, and, later, was organist in various churches in Bristol, Frome and south London. In 1915 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. From 1915 to 1919 he served in the armed forces. He was at St Peter's, Brockley, from 1918 to 1933, when he was also a conductor with the South London Philharmonic Society (1919 to 1921). It was Herbert Hand, first provost of the Diocese of Derby, who took Heath-Gracie to Derby, in 1933, as master of the choristers. It was a judicious appointment, and he was soon diocesan choir-master. One of his early achievements was the founding, in

1935, of the Derby Bach Choir, which still flourishes. Keen to introduce young boys to choral music, he nurtured links with local schools, and was school music adviser to Derbyshire Education Committee; musical director of Derby School; and an examiner with the Royal Schools of Music. Heath-Gracie brought the cathedral choir to a wider audience through a series of church music broadcasts for the BBC in the 1930s, both organ solo and with the choir. He had a vast and impressive repertoire, and his accompaniments were a delight to the ear. A kindly, considerate man, he was, when it came to the choir, a strict disciplinarian. Soon after his arrival at the cathedral he found that the organ was in danger of a complete breakdown, and he persuaded the late John Compton, organ builder, to make a new one. The new instrument included a device for selective couplings which Compton invented especially for him. That, Heath-Gracie later observed, was virtually the only improvement which had been made to the cathedral's organ during his time there. His departure on Christmas morning, 1957, was not a happy one.

The facilities for the choir at the cathedral displeased him. They were, he said, obliged to use one ill-ventilated lavatory or the public lavatory in the square; there was no suitable washroom; nor was there a place where wet clothes could be dried. "My only quarrel is with the organization of the Church of England," he explained. "I don't think the church appreciates good musicianship, and they haven't much knowledge of standards. A second Reformation is very badly needed." He retired to Devon, but not to inactivity. He was an examiner with the Royal Schools of Music until 1962, in which capacity he travelled in Asia, Africa, the Americas and New Zealand - adjudicating, lecturing and performing. In his retirement he managed also to find the time for a new-found interest: brewing. He married, in 1922, Marjory Knight, who died last year. There were no children of the marriage.

MISS OLGA FRANKLIN

Miss Olga Franklin, CBE, Matron-in-Chief of the Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service from 1947 to 1950, died on April 20. She was 91. Olga Heather Franklin's distinguished naval career spanned two world wars and beyond. In the Great War she served as a VAD and, later, in the WRNS. She was rewarded, in 1919, with an MBE. She completed her nursing training at King's College Hospital, joining the Naval Nursing Service in 1927. In 1941 she was in Hong Kong when the Japan invaded. She spent the rest of the war as a POW, running nursing services in the most hellish conditions, trying to preserve the highest standards of care for British and, sometimes, Japanese personnel. She was made matron-in-chief in 1947 and organized the changeover from war to peace conditions in the Navy. Everything had to be right, but she had kindness in large measure, and her nursing sisters found her always approachable. She instituted an inter-hospital tennis tournament, with the Franklin rose bowl as trophy. From 1947 to 1950 - when she retired, and was made a CBE - she was King's honorary nursing sister, the first woman to be so honoured.

DR DAVID OWEN

Dr David Owen, CBE, museum director, historian and campaigner for the preservation of inland waterways, died on April 9. He was 75. He was particularly involved in the restoration of the Peak Forest Canal, and he was a founder of the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port, where he worked as a volunteer, dressed in boatman's costume with floppy hat, explaining the exhibits to visitors, until the weekend before his death. Educated at The Leys School, Cambridge, and at King's College, London, David Elvstan Owen was a geologist - he wrote numerous papers on palaeontology - and his first museum post was in the geology department at Liverpool Museum. After the war, during which he was a major, Royal Artillery, he was appointed director of Leeds City Museums and then, in 1957, director of the Manchester Museum. He was a founder member of the

North-West Museums and Art Galleries Service. He retired from the Manchester Museum in 1976, and thereafter devoted most of his time to his great passion: the canals of England, on which he loved to cruise, to write about and to champion as places for recreation and, to a lesser extent, as commercial highways. He was president of the Manchester branch of the Inland Waterways Association. Owen produced a succession of books on waterways, the most recent of which, *Exploring England by Canal*, was published last year. The Museums Association elected him their president for 1968-9. He married, in 1936, Pearl Jennings, who survives him, with a son and a daughter. Willi Smith, a Manhattan fashion designer, who pioneered a baggy, androgynous style of clothing, worn by both men and women, died in New York on April 17. He was 39.

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THE ARTS

Digging in some rare soil

While *Victorian Values* (Granada) sent Bamber Gascoigne trawling for the 19th-century roots of the National Health Service, *The Victorian House* (Channel 4) opened a six-part excavation of our most substantial architectural heritage in the company of an altogether weightier front-man.

Jonathan Meades is the co-author of *Great Buildings of the World*; he is also a graduate of RADA. When he calls the brackets under an upstairs windowsill "pathetic" he carries the authority of someone who has personally inspected a few; when he

TELEVISION

prowls the length of a darkened draught, muffled and hatted like Orson Welles learning his lines, he suggests that — while he knows his subject from foundations to finials — he intends to entertain as he expounds.

This is a rare and welcome gift in a brickfield of, alternately, dullness or gimmickry. With its "incidental" period servants pottering in the background, this first instalment hinted at the latter, and its jumble of images and locations was every bit as eclectic as the stylistic anarchy of the Victorian builders — the "dressing-up box" from which they constructed "a series of notional pasts".

But it contrived to be bracing and irreverent: particularly memorable was the cheeky cut from a line about the optimism of the mid-century's urban arrivals to the close-up of a happily wallowing pig. Mr Meades's readers will know his fascination with the cultural tensions between town and country — how, for example, garden suburbs find their unplanned antithesis in rural slums and hence account of the Victorians' domestic aspirations was exact and imaginative. The camera-work was notably stylish.

An evening which began with the *Times* restaurant critic consuming nothing but cigarette smoke could only continue with *East of Eden* (BBC1) an unusually restrained Q.E.D. documentary on geography — an unusually fertile subject. From Liverpool to Guatemala, from Mississippi to Ghana, the addicts licked and munched their favoured soils and clays, and were invited to road-test tibits from other lands.

Behind the doors of a Mud Lab (sic), various profits swizzled their samples and scratched their pates in an attempt to discover the nutritive purpose of a habit not readily intelligible to dieticians. After much deliberation, a geophagy conference concluded that people eat earth because they like it. Eccentricity 1, Science 0.

Martin Cropper

Michael Vyner, artistic director of the London Sinfonietta, has been appointed artistic director of the Leeds Festival. The first festival for which he will be responsible will be in 1990.

Shakespeare's birthday present

Jeremy Kingston visits London's long-awaited Theatre Museum, in Covent Garden, to be opened by Princess Margaret today

In August 1955 Laurence Irving, grandson of Sir Henry, wrote a letter to this newspaper calling for a museum "to do for drama what South Kensington, Greenwich and Bloomsbury do for the British genius in engineering, seafaring and literature". A third of a century later the Theatre Museum, built within the old Flower Market in Covent Garden, will be opened by Princess Margaret today, St George's Day, a date chosen not to irritate the Scots, Welsh and Irish but because of its sentimental identification as Shakespeare's birthday. He would have been 423 years old.

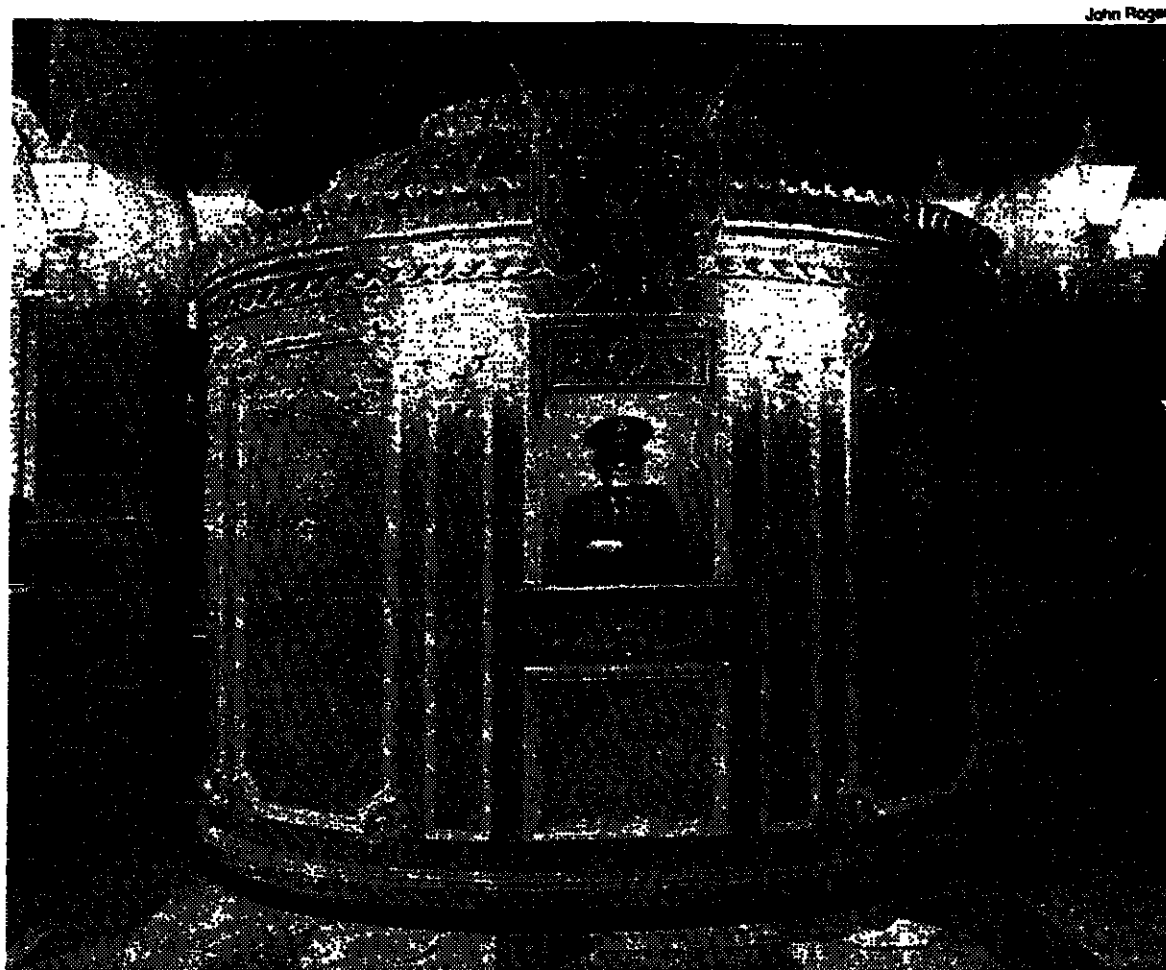
From the outside the building looks as if it could be part of some smart Edwardian theatre. Glass awnings shelter the pavement along its frontage at the corner of Russell Street and Wellington Street, and though in reality they used to protect burrows of fresh violets and spring daffs it is easy to imagine people shuffling beneath them hoping for a glimpse of Sir Charles Hawtrey or Marie Lloyd, or even queuing for returns for *Phantom of the Opera*.

A third of a century is a monstrous time to have to wait but not surprisingly so for an arts project in this country, dependent on the fiftal generosity of governments.

Initially, the process was one of bringing together the various groups that had an interest in preserving theatre history. Chief of these was the Victoria and Albert Museum which had acquired moulds of irreplaceable treasure, much of it donated by inspired collectors like Gabrielle Enthoven, who began tracking down playbills, prompt copies and other perishables back in the 1880s and eventually assembled more than 1,000,000 items.

An early enthusiast for the museum was Richard Buckle, whose *Diaghilev Exhibition* in 1954 had been a milestone in the search for imaginative ways of presenting the story of performing arts. Buckle helped found the Friends of the Museum of Performing Arts to act as a pressure group for persuading persons of influence, and at last, under the Heath Government, a group of rooms in Somerset House was offered as a possible home for the museum.

The offer was politely refused by the newly appointed director of the museum, Alexander Schouvaloff, formerly deputy director of the Edinburgh Festival. "The space was too



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small and there were so many restrictions on what we could show on the walls and put on the floor."

Fortunately Covent Garden market was in the process of transferring itself south of the river and the empty Flower Market building offered larger premises and a better placed site, right in the middle of theatreland. The Transport Museum claimed a part of the premises but an L-shaped ground floor and the extensive basement are now devoted to the British genius not only in drama, as Laurence Irving proposed, but to opera, ballet, music hall, pantomime, circus and (stretching "performing art" to its limit) rock 'n' roll and pop concerts.

The ground floor is calculated to charm with its clusters of marbled columns, stage boxes and cloakrooms in strawberly Gothick. Designed by Anthony Holland, the impression is fantastical and a little mysterious, like wandering into a puzzle picture by Escher, but the soaring height of the room and its generous natural lighting give it an airy joyousness that invites you to come hither and see what lies beyond.

Beyond lies down a ramp that opens into a wide foyer containing more

clustered columns, mirrors and the banquets of an old-fashioned crush bar. The purpose of this room is not entirely clear, other than to present a large space for viewing the paintings, but it leads in one direction to a small theatre, where the polished wooden stage is something between a Viking ship and a four-poster bed, and in the other direction to the exhibition galleries.

The posts of the stage and the clustered columns ingeniously conceal structural piers, and in the galleries (designed by John L. Paterson) these same piers form the centres of grouped display cabinets.

The permanent exhibition can be followed in chronological sequence from Shakespearean times to give an overall historical view, taking in old plays, prints, mock-ups, displays of costume, toy theatres (penny plain, tuppence coloured) and on to 20th-century reconstructions of an actor's dressing-room and a touring manager's office. If you want to see the magic piano from *Salad Days* (1954) it is there, surprisingly small, in the same cabinet as a gown worn by Eliza Dolittle.

The emphasis throughout is on theatre at work rather than the lives of theatricals. Shouvaloff explains the distinction: "We would show a dressing-gown worn by Noël Coward on stage but not one worn by him at home."

Only a relatively small selection of objects can be shown at any one time but, since the more fragile pieces cannot be exposed to light for longer than a few months, the museum's policy will be one of steady change. One year Jenny Lind, next year Ellen Terry or Little Tich. There will also be temporary exhibitions in the two larger galleries, the Gielgud Gallery and the Irving Gallery, kicking off with prints of 17th-century *ballades de cour* and a display of costume where Boris Christoff rubs epaulettes with Adam Ant.

By showing a wide range of objects in the "permanent" exhibition, helpfully labelled and with no risk of dismay through overkill, the collection appears nicely pitched to interest the casual visitor. If the "temporary" galleries can acquire a reputation for presenting selected subjects in depth the museum could well become a place to repay regular, longer visits as well.

ECYO/Judd Barbican

The European Community Youth Orchestra regularly makes whistle-stop tours around the Continent, but the one it is about to finish is rather special, celebrating as it does the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. How many more member countries will be contributing to its ranks 30 years hence? At any rate, for the seventh time on the itinerary, which finished last night in Oxford, the orchestra gave at this concert's climactic work Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, nowadays considered fair game for any decent youth orchestra.

It was, under the direction of James Judd, a performance of appropriately youthful vitality and unfettered aggression, a fact exaggerated by the acoustic properties of this hall, which, as everyone must know by now, favours brass, percussion and high woodwind. Not so much, though, that the ECYO's other departments were unable to make their mark. Very few symphony orchestras anywhere could have matched the sheer precision of this playing, with its

highly charged atmosphere and its swaggering confidence, all set off by the opening bassoon solo of the Italian Sergio Azzolini, a hero among heroes.

Yet I wonder if among all this brilliance Judd did not miss something. There is, after all, a magical aspect to the piece as well as a primeval animalistic one, and, although the exuberance which Judd encouraged here certainly had an immediate effect, one was left afterwards with a curiously empty feeling. It was as if the reading had been a ritual enactment with spontaneous drama. Anyone doubting the ability of these Euro-musicians to respond spontaneously, however, would have been rapidly disabused in Sir Yehudi Menuhin's sadly errant account of Beethoven's Violin Concerto, where they really needed to be, and were, on their toes.

Stephen Pettitt

Scottish Opera are to revive their 1985 production of *The Barber of Seville*, directed by Robert David Macdonald, at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on May 7. The production then moves to Newcastle, Liverpool and Edinburgh.

A pygmy trading in a giant's footsteps

Even Rafael Fröhbeck de Burgos's sympathetic advocacy, mercifully featherlight in texture and full of well-judged *rubato* touches, could not disguise the fact that Max Reger's Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Mozart is a tasteless, convoluted, meandering and weakly derivative piece of orchestral self-indulgence. Other than that, it is well worth the occasional airing.

There is no pleasure to be gained from hearing Mozart's little piano tune mangled by Reger's slithery brand of contrapuntal chromaticism,

CONCERTS

LPO/Frühbeck de Burgos Festival Hall

like some dainty lace handkerchief tossed in a rusty spindly. But it is fun for a bit to observe a pygmy trading in a giant's footsteps — the giant being Brahms, whose "St Anthony" Variations in particular were so obviously in Reger's mind in 1914. However, Reger's final, interminable fugue (based on the sort of tortuous subject one thought only existed in Royal College of Organists exam papers) so thoroughly exhausts the ear that even this mild mental *divertissement* loses its charm.

All credit to the London

Philharmonic Orchestra for taking it so seriously (well, professionally, anyway). The players later did a similar service for Respighi's gloriously kitsch *Pini di Roma*. It was a pity, though, that a much greater set of variations, Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, found the orchestra (particularly the brass) in scratchier form and Frühbeck de Burgos less authoritative in his co-ordination and balancing of the fast-moving cameos.

The soloist was the 19-year-old Finnish pianist/composer Olli Mustonen, who offered portraits of his potential mainly by a questioning, puppyish accentuation of the quicker figures, but seemed underpowered in the fustier outbursts and decidedly diffident about entering fully the lush emotional pastures.

Richard Morrison

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THEATRE

Court in the Act Phoenix

"You'll tell me when the joke's started, won't you?" says Sophie, the maid, 20 minutes into the first act of this French farce. This is a risky line for any play, particularly one with three sets, elaborate costumes and a cast of 14.

At this early point in the evening it is at touches of Braham Murray's direction that the laughter has chiefly come. The three provincial lawyers, suspiciously familiar with a musical comedy song they sing in unison, seems a simpler, less laboured joke than the judge's daughter, hit on the head during a visit to England, who has forgotten her mother tongue and has to be addressed in sign language.

But already there are the makings of a promising complication in the judge's home life, and the arrival from Paris of Lee Montague, a Minister of Justice determined to root out loose morals in the judiciary, points the way the comedy is likely to go: misunderstandings, strange coincidences, authority caught with its metaphorical pants down and the ladies with their dresses unmetaphorically round their ankles.

The co-authors, Maurice Hennequin and Pierre Veber, leave more loose ends lying around than Feydeau's machine-like genius would have permitted, but they also lack his heartlessness. The merry good nature of Gabrielle Drake's musical-comedy charm is a quality beyond Feydeau's reach, and the



Crustiness: Michael Denison

warmth of her delightful, cheeky, alert performance radiates through the evening.

The practical joke played on the judge (crusty Michael Denison) is to place her in his bedroom while his wife is away. With the minister's unexpected arrival she pretends to be the judge's wife and seduces the minister by candlelight — after a botched lighting cue that abruptly bores the stage in a blue night-time glare.

Everyone meets up in the minister's Paris office, and again in an elegant Hotel de la Paix where Stephen Doncaster's art nouveau set charms the eye without oppressing you with thoughts of its cost. The achievements of the evening include Michael Denison crumpling against a door like a prime minister experiencing one too many little local difficulties; Lee Montague's intakes of breath at the memories of love; and the moment when Avril Elgar is asked to remove her dress and at first looks astonished, then thrilled and at last marvellously happy.

Jeremy Kingston

The Aspern Papers Old Red Lion

This version of Henry James's tale is the work of Andrew Holmes and the Empty Space Theatre Company: four actors who play without hand props on a floor of roughly tacked lino tiles, and produce a show visually more resplendent than the revivals of Michael Redgrave's Chichester adaptation at the Haymarket.

My only objection is that the tale itself is apt to vanish into Venice workshop exercises. Waters lap, crowds mill; religious processions weave through the teeming piazzas, with background voices like innumerable chattering starlings. "According to the book it's quite remarkable", observes a tourist, holding an invisible Baedeker and gazing reverently at a non-existent palace. At last Charles Winter and his companion come into focus, and — if you can detach your attention from their vigorously poling gondolier — you learn of his plan to worm his way into the Bordereau household and snatch his literary golden fleece.

That is not the end of the workshop additions; and I would suggest that the company could improve on this by paying as much attention to music as they do to spectacle.

Irving Wardle

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Jarvis leads conference attack on NUT far-left

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

A stinging attack on far-left militant teachers from Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, ended the union's conference at Eastbourne yesterday.

Mr Jarvis, faced with growing public perception of the NUT as the "loony left" of the six teachers' unions and claims from right-wing teachers that three years of strikes have tied the NUT of its moderate members, sought to put the union in line with the broad left of the Labour Party.

But afterwards he was clearly relieved that the union leadership had just managed to stave off potentially disastrous militant policies.

He told the conference, in a side-swipe at eight London militants who have been expelled or suspended for organising an unofficial strike in protest against the Government's withdrawal of negotiating rights: "We want no unions within our union, and no alternative leadership either."

Calling on teachers to support and campaign for a Labour Party election victory, Mr Jarvis poured scorn on "the obscure political groups who parade their literature outside the conference hall every morning."

He said: "None of them would meet the needs of our members any more than they find support among the public at large."

He stressed the importance of joint action with the Schoolmasters and Women Teachers, the second largest union. Mr Jarvis said: "No minister has sought more cynically or unceasingly to

exploit divisions among teachers than Mr Baker."

Mr Jarvis accused Mr Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, of half-truths and deliberately misleading statements in his attacks on the unions on TV and radio.

"If you saw him on television last night I think you will agree that we have wiped the smile off his face," he said.

Members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers yesterday voted unanimously to continue an indefinite campaign of strikes and other disruptive actions in schools in England and Wales (John Clare writes).

The vote at the union's annual conference in Bourne-mouth was on a motion identical to one passed unanimously earlier in the week by the National Union of Teachers, at their conference in Eastbourne.

It means that the two unions are committed to an all-out confrontation with the Government over the removal of their negotiating rights.

State schools will be hit by a new round of selective half day strikes as soon as they re-open for the summer term on Monday. On the same day, the joint action committee of the two unions will meet to plan how to cause even more widespread disruption.

The conference avoided debating a proposal, which would almost certainly have been defeated, that the union should seek a merger with the NUT. Instead delegates backed an amendment suggesting the two unions should work together.

Czech rugby player can stay for a year

By Mark Ellis

A Czech rugby player who jogged to a railway station during a tour of Wales and went to London to plead for political asylum with immigration officials has been given permission to stay in Britain for a year.

Home office officials confirmed yesterday that Mr Victor Kavrin, 26, a Czech Rugby Union player, had been granted "exceptional leave to remain" on Tuesday, a day after the rest of the 28-strong party returned home.

Mr Kavrin, a farm worker, arrived from Gottwaldov, Czechoslovakia, for a three-match tour of Wales during the Easter holiday as a guest of Frysdydd Rugby Club, Dyfed, Wales.

"The day he arrived I overheard Victor asking the club secretary what the times were of the trains to London," said Mr Wyndham Morgan, chairman of the club.

It is believed that Mr Kavrin, who speaks fluent English, ran the four miles to Kidwelly railway station from the Ladbroke Holiday Camp where the team was staying on Saturday morning. He is now staying at a secret address in London.

Mr Morgan said: "He started to go on these early morning runs which lasted about an hour. It was all planned so that when he went for a run on Saturday morning he would have time to get to the station before anyone knew he was missing. When checks were made, it was discovered that his luggage had gone as well."

The rest of the team returned after an abortive search for their missing winger.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Permission was granted to stay for 12 months and at the end of that time he can apply again for an extension to stay."

Flying Duchess takes over the reins



The Duchess of York, who recently learnt to fly, taking the reins for a lesson in carriage-driving under the guidance of Lieut Colonel Sir John Miller in Windsor Park yesterday. Carriage driving is one of the favourite pastimes of her father-in-law, the Duke of Edinburgh. Photograph: Julian Herbert.

Dismal statistics of Beirut Birthday vigil held for kidnapped professor

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Beirut's statistics are inevitably lugubrious. Yesterday's were no different. The Lebanese pound fell to a new record low of 182 to the pound sterling and gunmen threw the 74th stick of dynamite in west Beirut since the arrival of the Syrian Army in the city in February. It was also Mr Alan Steen's 48th birthday.

Mr Steen is one of the four lecturers at Beirut University College who was abducted in January, an American academic whose kidnappers warned earlier this month that he was dangerously ill.

His wife, Virginia, marked his birthday yesterday at a sad little ceremony at his college, reciting a birthday message that was partly a greeting and partly a love letter, so moving that she broke down twice when she read it.

She had a wish, she told 600 of her husband's students beneath the pine trees of the College campus. "I don't have to tell you what that wish is, but I hope the people holding these men, at this special time of the year, will show their compassion, their brotherhood and their humanitarian con-

cern... Alan, I love you."

Four students read a list of the kidnapped men's academic achievements, one of them adding that "to kidnap a professor is to kidnap a college". Mrs Steen walked to a wooden seat where the wives of the other three teachers were sitting, smiling bravely at the students who clapped her speech.

The "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine" had announced on April 2 that Mr Steen was suffering from high blood pressure, was breathing with difficulty and might not live long. Since then there has been only silence.

The families of most of the 24 foreigners still missing in Lebanon had placed their hopes in the arrival of the Syrian Army in west Beirut on February 22 but even that force of 7,500 men is now being challenged by the unidentified bombers, who have specialised these past few weeks in throwing sticks of dynamite, almost always at night, into wasteland and rubbish-tips.

Their small bombs have overturned parked cars and

shattered windows but hitherto caused no injuries. On Sunday, however, one of those insignificant little bombs, left beneath the abandoned flyover at Cola, tore the arms of Mr Mahmoud Khashab, a Lebanese bomb-disposal officer.

The perpetrators, labouring under the title of the Lebanese Liberation Organization - a name which sounds suspiciously similar to the Palestine Liberation Organization - apparently managed to set off a bomb near the Jiye power station on the coast road south of Beirut, which is now patrolled by the Syrian Army.

The Syrians denied this and announced that they had caught three men responsible for earlier explosions, a claim not supported with evidence.

For most Lebanese, however, such events are insignificant compared to their daily impoverishment. The Lebanese pound has dropped to 182 to the pound sterling from over three in 1975, and this morning both Muslim and Christian communities are to hold a three-day general strike protesting the Government's inability to end the economic disaster.

Mauritians detained at Heathrow

Continued from page 1

gum and they were refused entry to the United Kingdom as transit passengers. Arrangements had been made for them to be returned to Mauritius, but British Airways declined to take them," a

spokesman said. Mr Choudhury said he did not want the 10 to go on as long as the passports carried the refusal stamp.

Sabana said yesterday that the passengers were supposed to go on the 5pm flight. They

did not show up for customs reasons. "At our last flight of the same day, 9.15pm, Sabana informed customs we could still take them, but the passengers didn't show up so we had to leave without them. That is the last we heard about them."

Air Force attacks Tamil strongholds

Continued from page 1

Yesterday's meeting of the Sri Lankan Cabinet declared its continuing intention of taking "all measures to eliminate terrorists and terrorism throughout the island and from the Northern and Eastern Provinces in particular."

The Cabinet also decided that there would be no May Day meetings or processions this year, to avoid large gatherings of people, which could be a target for terrorist attacks.

The curfew clamped onto Colombo following the bomb blast at the city's largest bus station continued through the day yesterday and was rigorously enforced.

During a four-hour break in the early morning, however, large crowds began to gather around the market area where the bus stand still smouldered. When they began to attack Tamil-owned shops they were dispersed by police, who fired over their heads with revolvers and rifles.

The country's most senior police officer, Mr L. D. C. Herat, Inspector General of Police, visited the area. He praised the public's co-operation with the police. "There has been an isolated incident perhaps," he told me, "but people have responded very well. There has been an excellent co-operation with the public."

Pilgrims' gift of cash to sick Israeli child

Continued from page 1

College Hospital, a national centre for paediatric liver treatment, revealed how the passengers came to donate cash spontaneously to help the sick child.

"Moran's picture had been in Israeli newspapers and she was recognized by passengers on the plane to London," he said.

"Spontaneously they started to collect funds from every passenger on the plane. On the first circuit of 450 passengers, they raised £30,000. Someone spoke over the tannoy and said 'How about some more?'. The second circuit raised more than £10,000."

money into the funds of the "Whole World Organization," which helped raise money to send Moran to Britain. Her mother Tova, a housewife aged 28, and her father, Zion, aged 29, who is in printing, were at her bedside yesterday.

The hospital spokesman added: "The parents are incredibly grateful to all the people in Israel and on the plane who raised money."

The assessment of the child's condition is likely to take a few days. Mr Cyril Stein, one of the passengers, refused to comment last night on the money raising effort. But a senior official of his company said: "He was just one of many people who got together to help, including a group of Christian pilgrims who were on board the flight."

Arabs held for Cyprus attack

By Nicholas Beeson

Cypriot detectives hunting the gunmen who attacked a British soldier and a teenage girl confirmed yesterday that they had arrested two Arabs, but said that the manhunt for their suspected accomplices was still under way.

The men, who were remanded in custody for eight days, were identified as Saleh Ali al-Hamad, aged 26, and Rashid Abdullah Saleh, aged 24. They were travelling on Bahraini passports, but diplomatic sources on the island suggested the documents were forged and that the men could be Libyan, Palestinian or Lebanese.

"Right now we are concentrating on the Libyan link, but it is not clear who they were operating for," a security source told *The Times*. "The police have run a slick and impressive operation and the British are very pleased."

Although the ambush on Monday was foiled by the quick reaction of Corporal John Bailey, aged 35, investigators said they believe that one or two more suspects, who may have acted as "back-up" for the attackers, might still be on the island.

Libya was strongly suspected of involvement in the mortar attack against the RAF base at Akrotiri in August, and diplomats believe the latest shooting may have been inspired by the first anniversary of the air raid on Libya by US warplanes flying from bases in Britain.

The two Arabs being held were seized on Tuesday night in raids on houses in Larnaca and Nicosia, after police traced a rented car, a white Mazda, to one of the suspects. A senior police officer in Larnaca said the arrests were made after detectives had "secured important evidence" against them.

It is believed that officers discovered spent rifle cartridge cases, that may have been used in the attack.

During the seven-minute attack a grenade and dozens of machine gun rounds were fired at Corporal Bailey and his passenger, Miss Linda Wilkinson, aged 15, during a high-speed car chase along four miles of the Nicosia-Larnaca highway.

Miss Wilkinson was said yesterday to be improving from injuries to her back and was expected to be discharged from the RAF Princess Mary Hospital at Akrotiri today.

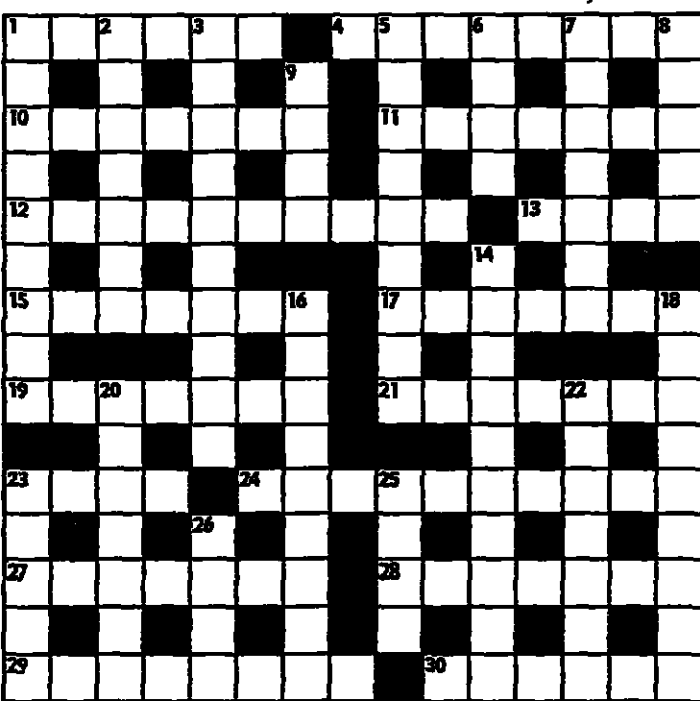
Corporal Bailey, who was discharged earlier in the week after light injuries to his leg, is expected to be nominated for a medal by his commanding officer for his courage and ability, which a military spokesman said almost certainly saved his life and that of Miss Wilkinson.

Parliament, page 4

Royal duty

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is to open a military museum next Thursday at Cardiff Castle, featuring the history of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,338



ACROSS

- 1 With a poet's chariot, always go quickly (6).
- 4 After a gamble one soldiers on as an example (8).
- 10 Poems in part by a magistrate in Italy (7).
- 11 Some fat about - it hangs round the neck... (7).
- 12 ... and a bird about - successful day for a hungry one (10).
- 13 Inequality in curious society (4).
- 15 In error, cut short appearance (7).
- 17 With us present, daughter is well conducted (7).
- 19 Are returning safe from obliteration (7).
- 21 Warnings not to bowl yorkers? (7).
- 23 Objections about cigarette end (4).
- 24 Wanting to keep things in a case (10).
- 27 Note number of coins to put back into circulation (7).
- 28 Made a ringing sound in which many joined (7).
- 29 Good golfer a threat to children? (5-3).
- 30 Judicious biting (6).

DOWN

- 1 With a cloak, a gem gives the finishing touch (4-5).
- 2 Emitting rays of light to help when climbing in storm (7).
- 3 Simple quality a good girl does not possess (4,6).
- 5 Untidy Quip and Nana, making litter (9).
- 6 The hooter is faint (4).
- 7 Wind about, making many get in closer (7).
- 8 Gesture of agreement to America is a difficulty (5).
- 9 Post for a boy, say? (4).
- 14 Tin worker - with mesh, it may be (10).
- 16 Dad clutching female - a sign of odd events (9).
- 18 Went down hill - that's the finish in fact (9).
- 20 A thoughtful droll (7).
- 22 Twist about on a curling place with the French (7).
- 23 Drink in silence with difficulty (5).
- 25 Wine container (4).
- 26 It's dusty, for a start (4).

Concise crossword, page 10

WEATHER

General situation: a warm southerly airstream will cover the United Kingdom. London, the Midlands, north-east England and north Wales will be dry with some warm sunshine. South-west England and south Wales will see mist on coasts later. Western districts will be cloudier at times with perhaps a little rain in western and northern parts of Scotland, and Northern Ireland. It will be a warm day in most parts, though some southern and eastern coasts will experience a cooler sea breeze. Maximum temperatures will vary from 16 to 18°C (61 to 64°F) in the south to 14°C (57°F) in Scotland. Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Mostly dry at first but thundery showers spreading north-east to all parts on Saturday. Generally warm.

ABROAD

MONDAY: c, cloud; f, fog; r, rain; s, sun; t, snow; t, thunder.					
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70
Algeria	18	64	Malaya	21	70

AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Rain	h	Max	F
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy
Scarbore	0.3	14	57	cloudy

HIGH TIDES

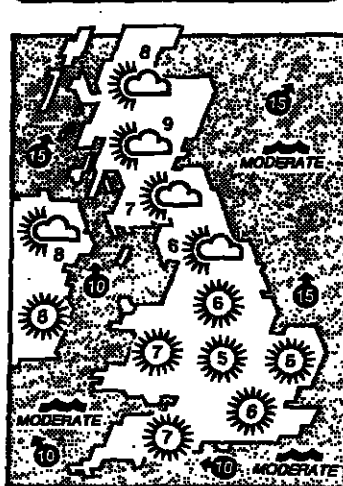
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0
London Bridge	10:38	6.2	11:30	6.0

THE POUND

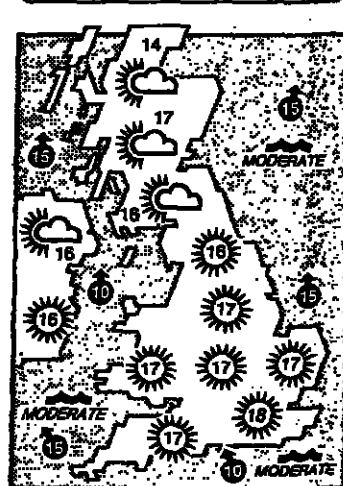
	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40
Australia \$	2.40	2.40	2.40

Rates for small denomination bank notes only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Retail Price Index: 100.6. London: The FT index closed up 14.9 at 144.8.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 6.40 pm to 5.17 am
Edinburgh 6.05 pm to 5.17 am
Manchester 6.35 pm to 5.25 am
Penzance 6.58 pm to 5.42 am

LONDON

Tuesday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 16°C (61°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 7°C (45°F).
Wednesday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 6°C (43°F).
Thursday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5°C (41°F).

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fog; r, rain; s, sun.
c, cloud; f, fog; r, rain; s, sun.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

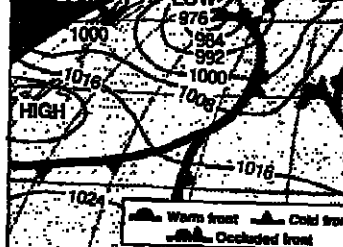
Tuesday: Highest day temp: Loughborough 18°C (64°F). Lowest day temp: Cape Wrath 9°C (48°F).
Wednesday: Highest day temp: Loughborough 17°C (63°F). Lowest day temp: Cape Wrath 8°C (46°F).
Thursday: Highest day temp: Loughborough 16°C (61°F). Lowest day temp: Cape Wrath 7°C (45°F).

MANCHESTER

Tuesday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 13°C (55°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 7°C (45°F).
Wednesday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 12°C (54°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 6°C (43°F).
Thursday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5°C (41°F).

NOON TODAY

Low 1000, High 1032, Wind 10, Rain 0.0, Cloud 100.



PART 2

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY APRIL 23 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1546.8 (+14.9)FT-SE 100
1955.7 (+15.5)Bargains
33090 (31964)USM (Datastream)
162.73 (-0.11)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6270 (-0.0080)W German mark
2.9676 (+0.0050)Trade-weighted
72.4 (-0.1)Bank of
Scotland
up 24%

The Bank of Scotland yesterday announced a 24 per cent increase in pretax profits to £118.5 million, up from £95 million the year before, fuelled by a big increase in consumer lending.

The result, which was better than City analysts had expected, reflected a 38 per cent growth in profits from North West Securities, the consumer credit subsidiary, to £25.1 million. The bank concentrated more resources on consumer lending last year including joint ventures with several building societies wanting to enter into personal unsecured lending to customers.

The British Linen Bank, the medium banking arm, produced a £4 per cent rise in profits to £7.8 million while the Bank of Wales contributed £1.2 million to group profits over the second half.

Comment, page 23

Barclays vote

Barclays Bank shareholders approved the bank's scheme to raise £210 million of new capital through share issues in New York and Tokyo at the annual meeting, despite complaints that it had mismanaged the matter and was depriving shareholders of their pre-emption rights.

BET launch

BET, the diversified services group, moved to cut its borrowing costs in the US by launching a \$150 million (£92 million) commercial paper programme to replace its conventional short-term bank borrowings.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2330.82 (+6.25)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	24087.78 (+211.59)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2716.80 (+3.53)
Hang Seng	Hang Seng	287.8 (+3.5)
Amsterdam	Amsterdam	1754.8 (+4.5)
Sydney	Sydney	1837.5 (+24.0)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	4571.93 (+36.97)
Paris	Paris	533.40 (+0.10)
Zurich	Zurich	581.42 (+8.83)
London	FT 100	1955.7 (+15.5)
FT 30	FT 30	1546.8 (+14.9)

Recent issues Page 24
Closing prices Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%	
3-month interbank 9 1/4-9 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills 9 1/4-9 3/4%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 7 1/4%	
Federal Funds 6 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 5.40-5.38%	
30-year bonds 8 1/4-8 3/4%	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6270	\$ £1.5305
£ DM1.5215	DM £1.5215
£ Sfr2.1435	Sfr £2.1435
£ FF9.8718	FF £9.8718
£ Yen231.20	Yen £231.20
£ Index 72.4	Index £72.4
ECU £0.70048	SDR £0.70048

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Nat. West. Bank	598p (+15p)
Royal Insurance	888p (+15p)
Thorn EM	655p (+15p)
Morgan Crucible	785p (+15p)
Pilkington Bros.	785p (+15p)
Jaguar	567p (+13p)
Mirra	315p (+20p)
Seaton Clark	315p (+20p)
Wigfalls	203p (+22p)
Amersham	562p (+23p)
Midland Bank	635p (+20p)
Sun Life Assur.	1175p (+30p)
JT Parrish	470p (+15p)
Lodge Care	160p (+17p)
NMW Computers	343p (+18p)

FALLS:	
Anglia Television	449p (-12p)
Chambers & Fergus	350p (-12p)
Ellis & Goldstein	814p (-8p)
Bosse Massini	340p (-15p)
Cons. Gold	873p (-27p)

Prices are as at 4pm

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$446.80 pm \$445.50	
close \$444.00-444.50 (£272.75)	
New York:	
Comex \$447.90-448.50	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May 1) pm \$17.70bbl (\$18.07)	
Denotes latest trading prices	

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☆☆☆☆☆

US trade talks with Japan end in failure

Tokyo keeps
market ban

From Colin Campbell and David Watts, Tokyo

The Tokyo Stock Exchange is not admitting additional foreign trading firms as members until next May, despite continuing British Government and Japanese domestic pressure to speed up the process and the threat of sanctions against Japanese companies operating in Britain.

At the same time, a week of talks in Japan involving two senior US officials has done nothing to forestall threatened protectionist action in the US. Mr Michio Takeuchi, president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, yesterday admitted it would be beneficial to Britain and Japan for leading securities firms to be members of the exchange, and that there was nothing stopping any British candidate wanting Tokyo membership from buying a Japanese firm already represented on the floor.

Purchase by a suitably qualified firm of a Japanese securities company would automatically mean a stock exchange seat, but because of space and trading booth limitations at the exchange, neither new foreign nor domestic firms was likely to become members until next May. The exchange has 93 member firms on the floor,

handling 1,500 contracts a day. Mr Takeuchi said the TSE would be considering membership requests from British as well as US, European and domestic firms. But exchange members, via a vote, would decide.

The president denied he was under pressure either from the Japanese government or Japanese trading firms, who fear that retaliatory measures in Britain would damage them, to increase membership as soon as possible.

"We have a target date of May 1988 towards which we are working and meanwhile we have space problems," he insisted. "I hope the British Government accepts that we are doing our utmost to resolve the problems between us."

Meanwhile, Mr Richard Lyng, the US Secretary of Agriculture, said he was leaving Tokyo a "considerably disappointed" man.

"I came in the hopes that we could achieve a better understanding of the US concerns about access to agricultural markets in Japan. I must say that I wind up being considerably disappointed."

Mr Lyng said there was no understanding of the inconsis-

tencies in Japan's being able to sell almost anything it wanted in the US while American products faced barriers.

Asked why the US was "zealous" on rice, a staple protected under Japan's Food Control Law, Mr Lyng said that in Washington last December he had sought the agreement of Mr Mutsuki Kato, the Minister of Agriculture, that all agricultural, internal and external, should be discussed at the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

"I cautioned him then that to take such a stand would be to single rice out as a symbolic position of extreme protectionism and it was not the kind of thing a nation like Japan with a huge export surplus could comfortably espouse."

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, said he had listened to members of the Diet explain why it would be impossible to further open the Japanese market to US agricultural products.

"One wonders how the Administration can be expected to continue to defend a free and open trade policy in the US when we receive that kind of response in Tokyo."



No understanding: Yeutter (left) and Lyng yesterday

Some changes urged

From Our Correspondent, Tokyo

A call for immediate action to restructure the Japanese economy in the short-term is made in a report by Japan's Economic Council.

But the report, by the council's committee on economic restructuring, chaired by Mr Haruo Maekawa, is not official government policy and is short of specific recommendations for restructuring.

It urges a fundamental review of regulations by a new organization to pursue deregulation in the domestic economy and in market access, and relaxation of regulations in the distribution and

finance sectors and in petroleum and other industries.

It wants positive efforts to ensure that foreign companies do business in Japan's construction market and wants urgent fiscal measures.

To increase imports of manufactured goods, the report suggests the abolition of tariffs and more overseas procurement by the government.

The price differential between Japanese and overseas food prices could be cut by raising productivity, promoting imports and encouraging competition.

EEC to warn against dumping

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC External Relations Commissioner, flies to Tokyo today to warn Japan that the EEC will take retaliatory action if Japanese goods kept out of the United States by 100 per cent tariffs are "dumped" on the European market.

An EEC committee of trade experts meets tomorrow, in Brussels, to draw up a list of Japanese goods against which the EEC could take sanctions.

Mr de Clercq will be in Tokyo for "quadrilateral" discussions on trade issues between the EEC, Japan, the US and Canada.

Japanese Foreign Trade Minister, that Japan will not be allowed to take advantage of the expansion of the EEC to a market of 12 countries. As part of the enlargement process, Spain and Portugal are reducing their industrial tariffs from an average 15 per cent to 5 per cent.

EEC Commission officials said action against Japan will almost certainly be on the agenda of the next EEC summit meeting in Brussels in June. The EEC is determined to correct the trade imbalance between Japan and Western Europe, the officials said.

Mr de Clercq will tell the

Growth to
continue
at Ashley

By Alexandra Jackson

Laura Ashley, the group now solely run by Mr Bernard Ashley, increased its net retail space by 38 per cent last year and expects to expand by a further 22 per cent in the current year. The main thrust of growth is in Britain and North America, where a 60 openings are planned this year.

In the year to the end of January, however, Laura Ashley's pretax profits rose by only 25 per cent to £22.5 million. A final dividend of 1.5p is recommended. Current depressed profits by £2 million.

Tempos, page 2



Mr Bernard Ashley: 60 openings planned

M0 ends financial
year in mid target

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The broad measure of the money supply, sterling M3, rose by 19.19 per cent in the last financial year, the Bank of England said yesterday. This was well above the target range, now dropped, of 11-15 per cent.

But the narrow measure, M0, on which the Government places more reliance, finished a little below the middle of its target range at about 3 1/2 per cent.

Foreign exchange markets were more impressed by the latest opinion poll giving the Conservatives a 15-point lead. The Bank of England had to intervene during the morning to restrain sterling's rise against the mark, but the pound still closed 4 pence higher at DM2.9685.

Against a former dollar sterling was 1/2 cent lower at \$1.6273 and the effective exchange rate index closed 0.1 lower than the previous close at 72.4. Trading was thin.

On interest rates there was no significant change in sentiment with the key three-month interbank rate unchanged at 9 1/4 per cent. Gilts were up to 1/4 point.

Trading in the dollar was also relatively tight but mar-

kets were optimistic about today's GNP figures which are expected to reduce the likelihood of a cut in US interest rates.

After the big jump in the public sector borrowing requirement last month the money supply moved much in line with market expectations. Sterling M3 was provisionally estimated to have increased by 3 1/4-3 1/2 per cent seasonally adjusted.

The increase was lower than in March 1986 bringing the year-on-year rate down from 19.6 per cent to between 19 and 19 1/4 per cent unadjusted.

While the main contributor to money supply growth was from the public sector, bank lending to the private sector also continued to grow strongly with a seasonally adjusted rise of £2.2 billion. Debt sales were expansionary during a month in which the Bank of England bought stock in an attempt to head off too rapid a fall in interest rates.

But despite official selling of sterling to slow the pound's rise on foreign exchange markets the other unadjusted counterparts to growth in M3 were contractionary.

Comment, page 23

Societies' receipts
rise £75m

By Amanda Pardoe

Building societies' net receipts rose by £75 million last month to £547 million. The figure is the highest this year, but less than the £557 million recorded for March 1986.

The improvement is partly due to the withdrawal of the 32nd issue of National Savings Certificates and the absence of any main company flotations.

Several societies have also improved the rates paid to investors, in spite of the announcement of a reduction in the mortgage rate.

Mortgage demand has been buoyant, with net new commitments reaching £3.183 million, their highest level since September 1986. Demand is expected to increase during the summer.

Although it is anticipated that a reduction in investment account interest will come into effect on May 1, the societies have been playing a wait and see game.

The new 33rd issue of National Savings Certificates, paying 7 per cent over five years, gives them room to manoeuvre. A cut of 1 per cent has been intimated. The societies will have to announce their decision soon.

Co-op considers loan option

By Our Industrial Editor

The Co-operative Union is studying ways of raising extensive development capital more cheaply which could take it into offering fixed rates of return on loans, some geared for capital appreciation, competitive with building society rates.

A formula for securing capital at about the same cost as equity capital raised by high street competitors when they float more shares on the market is being sought by a committee under the aegis of the central organizing body,

the Co-operative Union.

The main target, if the loan option were pursued, would be the 8 million members of Co-operative retail societies.

Traditionally taking in loans from members has been a major source of capital for the co-operative movement. But a loans deal, if decided, would be open to anyone.

The fund-raising scheme could involve the 95 Co-operative retail societies in Britain as well as the Co-operative Wholesale Society

(CWS) which, as well as providing goods and services to retail societies, is also a retailer in Scotland and the South-east.

The six-month study was disclosed yesterday by Mr Jim Mason, the chairman of the CWS board, as it announced 1986 pretax profits down nearly a quarter at £6.4 million. Trading profits were down to £19.3 million from £21.2 million the year before, the main reason being reductions in overseas trade.

FOR PEOPLE
WHO REALLY
MATTER

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ALWAYS**

LONDON	NEW YORK	CHICAGO	TOKYO
ZURICH			HONG KONG
PARIS			SYDNEY
MILAN			DUSSELDORF
DUSSELDORF			MILAN
SYDNEY			PARIS
HONG KONG			ZURICH
OAKOOL	OSGOWICH	YROAMEN	NOGNOT

played all the... and said the... that in the... been wrong to sell in May on... from the...
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News 5.50p (weekdays) 5.00p (Sundays)
All times in GMT
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Guinness to reveal huge provision for scandal costs

By Joe Joseph

Guinness, still busy in the courts but eager to show it is back on course after its recent upheavals, will reveal today how much it is setting aside to make good the havoc wreaked on the company's finances when Mr Ernest Saunders, its disgraced former chairman, was still at the helm.

Analysts say the figure is likely to be staggering. City followers of Guinness's affairs are virtually agreed that the brewing group will report pretax profits for the 15 months ending last December of between £350 million and £355 million.

These figures, which include returns for eight months from Distillers, dwarf the £86 million Guinness reaped in the year before it swallowed the Scotch whisky maker for £2.7 billion after a hotly-contested battle.

But analysts are shrinking from the challenge of making anything more than the broadest of guesses about the size of the provisions that Sir Norman Macfarlane, the chairman of Guinness, and Mr Anthony Tennant, its recently installed chief executive, will be making to meet the costs of the Guinness scandal.

Estimates are generally on the large side, hovering mostly between £100 million and £125 million.

The thinking in the City is that Guinness will write off all of the £100 million (£61 million) poured into the investment fund run by the fallen Wall Street arbitrageur, Mr Ivan Boesky. It may be

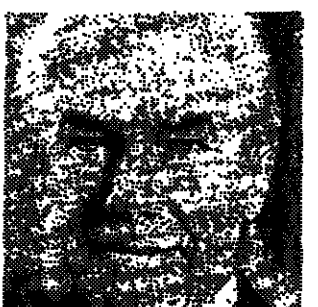
able to retrieve some of this but Guinness's auditor, Price Waterhouse, has probably warned against being too optimistic.

Then there is the matter of the £25 million worth of mystery invoices which Guinness is still trying to track down. Around two-thirds of this money remains frustratingly out of Guinness's grasp.

Some analysts feel Guinness may also consider a provision against the transfer of its Dewar's brand name to Shenley Industries of the US, a subsidiary of the Rapid American Corporation.

But perhaps the biggest headache facing Sir Norman's team is whether to earmark any funds to cover the possibility of a successful lawsuit by Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Group, which emerged as the jilted suitor in last year's bitter tussle for Distillers.

"Clearly it would be inappropriate for it to be making any provision as regards Argyll, because in doing so it



Sir Norman Macfarlane may set aside £125 million

would be making an admission of guilt," said one analyst. But can Guinness afford not to set aside funds for such an eventuality?

And what about making provisions to cover actions brought by disgruntled Distillers shareholders who might complain, once the results of the Department of Trade and Industry's inquiry into Guinness's tactics during last year's takeover deprived them of potential extra gains?

"This would be quite a hard one to make stick," said one analyst, "but you can't discount anything."

Whatever figures Guinness unveils today, they will be seen merely as a prelude to the more meaty annual report and accounts which will be published on May 5. Shareholders will be able to comment on the report's contents three weeks later at the annual meeting.

The annual report will contain a fuller breakdown of the provisions the company is making, some clearer idea of what Guinness sees as its prospects for the current year and the latest update from Sir Norman on the story so far.

Last week the High Court maintained an injunction won by Guinness freezing the assets of Mr Saunders and Mr Thomas Ward, a Guinness director, who are being sued for the recovery of £5.2 million paid to a Jersey nominee company. Mr Ward is also being sued in the US to recover the company's legal fees and a Washington flat.



Malcolm Baldrige: trade has improved 'significantly'

China wants more high-tech trade

From Robert Gries, Peking

The United States was urged yesterday to allow more high-technology exports to China.

The call was made by Mr Zheng Zuobin, the Chinese Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, at the opening of the fifth annual round of Sino-US trade talks in Peking.

Mr Zheng told Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the American Commerce Secretary, that the US should continue to liberalize restrictions on exports to China.

"We hope the United States will increasingly press forward on this issue and eventually do away with all irrational restrictions towards China," Mr Zheng said.

In the last 19 months, the US has raised from seven to 30 the number of technological exports to China that do not need approval of the Coordinating Committee for Export Control, which monitors technology exports to communist countries.

Nevertheless, the Peking government complains that Washington continues to restrict non-sensitive technology exports to China until the equipment in question becomes obsolete or is available from other sources.

"The Chinese market is an intensely competitive market, and the United States should

carefully consider the competitiveness and comprehensiveness of machine and technology exports to China, and facilitate them preferentially," Mr Zheng said.

Earlier, in a breakfast meeting with American businessmen at the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, Mr Baldrige said the US technology transfer policy for China had shown "significant improvement" in the last year and was designed to put Sino-US trade "on a level playing field."

On the subject of America's trade dispute with Japan, Mr Baldrige said US accusations of Japanese violations of trade agreements concerning computer chips were "dead right".

Mr Baldrige said Japan had sold between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of its chips on the world market at prices below the \$3 (£1.83) a chip which the US and Japan had agreed upon in mid-1986.

Mr Baldrige said there was a slightly better than even chance that Congress would not pass protectionist trade legislation. And if it did, President Reagan would veto the resulting Bill.

The Commerce Secretary stressed that the US was not intent on starting an international trade war and wanted to settle its trade differences with Japan.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

The pre-election boom gathers momentum

There are, no doubt, arguments for delaying a general election beyond June but few people in the City would give them time of day. At the simple level, markets are predicting both a June poll and a Conservative victory. If they are wrong (which they are not) they would have to count the cost — in billions, as share prices adjusted to a different regime.

At a deeper level, the City is concerned by the probable course of the economy, notably the balance of payments and the value of sterling. It is prepared for certain remedial work to be done on the economy after an early election: prices already discount this expectation and should not therefore suffer. But if the election were delayed the market accepts that corrective treatment would be stiffer: in these circumstances we could see a substantial self-off through the summer. That would not help the Conservative cause, which has been heavily strengthened by profitably privatization issues and the sense of well-being induced by rising share values, one little bit.

The outlines of these hostages to electoral fortune can be seen in the latest money supply, bank lending and building society figures which appeared yesterday. Although the money supply figures, to which not a great deal of attention is now paid, are better than feared, both the monthly statement from the English and Scottish clearing banks and the building society figures show that consumer spending and the demand for property have built up a huge head of steam. Bank advances for home purchase went up £663 million in March, while building societies' gross advances, helped by a bigger inflow of savings, rose from £2.2 billion in February to £2.7 billion in March. Societies' commitments to lend have increased from £2.8 billion to £3.2 billion.

There is thus a tremendous urge to spend in the private sector and the demand for a place of one's own, currently lubricated by lower mortgage rates, tax cuts and increases in real earnings, is high insatiable. It is little wonder that the Labour Party is in the doldrums when it refuses to recognize the irresistible force of property ownership in our society, which the Tories are now successfully extending to ownership of shares. The latent economic risks in unbridled consumer spending have nonetheless to be recognised.

But, Conservatively-speaking, so far so good. And it might be better yet. It is apparent that the Bank of England, by buying in gilt-edged stocks, has cleverly sustained that market during a spell of serious weakness in the New York bond market. Having decoupled London from New York, the authorities might shortly move to recouple — if, as dealers were beginning to sense yesterday, the New York bond market may be over its worst and looking to a period of

reviving values. It may be that a yield of 8½ per cent on the long bond is a resistance point. In the words of the chartist, the picture is a superb double bottom.

The City, in that peculiar way it has, was almost convinced last night that bank base rates will be cut again in the first week of May. What price a June election then, I wonder.

Cheer from Scotland

While most of the banking sector lies becalmed, a gust of optimism greeted the Bank of Scotland's better-than-expected year-end results. Led by a resourceful general manager in Bruce Patullo, who may one day become governor of the Bank of England, it is an unusual clearing bank. The balance of its activities is subtly shifting away from conventional clearing banking — it has only a small branch network — to subsidiaries and joint ventures as a way towards a wider client base.

Pretax profits to February 28 are £118.5 million, up 24 per cent and at least £8 million ahead of most predictions. The shares rose from 453p to 465p and, with a 2.5p increase in dividend to 16.5p, they have the lowest yield in the sector, bar the Trustee Savings Bank. Minimal Latin American debt-exposure can work wonders!

The performance came from a rapid expansion in lending, up by about £1 billion, which helped to boost net interest income by nearly £50 million. About half the increase came in the highly lucrative personal-loan sector. The Bank of Scotland exercised its option to buy back £150 million of mortgages syndicated four years ago and further expanded its book by direct lending to home buyers. Consumer lending was the runaway success with a £7 million increase the profits of North West Securities to £25.1 million.

Another bright spot was the performance of the British Linen Bank, the merchant-banking arm. After two years of trading water, it increased its profits last year by 84 per cent to £7.8 million.

North West is one of the bank's power-bases for further excursions into consumer-credit joint ventures and credit-card services. The contract to run Marks and Spencer's charge-card expires next year, but new links with building societies to offer personal, unsecured lending services will fill the gap.

The Bank of Scotland claims that its electronic banking service, HOBS, has taken off with businesses and, although it still refuses to give any figures, says 60 per cent of new users have not banked with it before.

All this technology needs heavy investment and the bank's expenses have continued to surge. Total operating expenses were up £30 million, including a starting jump in staff costs of £15 million.

Last-half recovery for Neill

By Ray Heath

James Neill Holdings, the engineering group and tool manufacturer, bounced back from a disastrous first half to produce pretax profits only £500,000 short of the previous year's record £5.02 million.

In the first six months, the company suffered from its takeover of Spear & Jackson, a fire at its Handsworth factory in Sheffield and lower-than-expected demand.

As a result, profits fell from £2.5 million to £748,000, but recovered to £4.52 million by the year-end.

Mr Hugh Neill, the chairman, reported an encouraging upturn in demand, with the benefits of four years of rationalization and the Spear acquisition now becoming apparent. A final dividend of 4.8p is being paid, raising the total from 7p to 7.3p.

The insurance settlement of £4.1 million for loss of profits after the fire is being paid over 18 months and contributed £1.57 million last year.

The company also received a net extraordinary credit of £2.33 million as compensation for machinery that had to be scrapped because of fire damage.

While the fire disrupted profits in the first half, the insurance money is being used to accelerate Neill's capital expenditure programme. It committed £4 million to this at the year-end.

Reuters expands foreign service

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Reuters, the news and information organization, yesterday launched a worldwide general news service which will provide up-to-the-minute news and historical information on 190 countries.

The Country Reports Service is aimed at bankers and insurance companies, businesses, government organizations, academics and the media, who need detailed information about foreign countries.

It provides access to Reuters's own library of stories with additional critical analysis.

The service organizes all the existing Reuters news services (such as commodity, money,

capital markets) on a country basis, with immediate access to stories going back 90 days.

Extra material is provided for 50 selected countries including lists and profiles of government and business personalities, economic indicators, details of the power structure and the economy, and even a "local country guide" for visiting business travellers on what to wear and how to behave.

This detailed service concentrates on less well known countries and information on these areas, which represent more than 75 per cent of world debt outside the United States, is updated as changes occur.

Norcros lifts profit forecast

By Our City Staff

The Norcros management yesterday aimed what it hopes will be the knockout blow to Williams Holdings' takeover hopes by forecasting record profits for the current year.

With just 22 days of trading behind it, the mini-conglomerate is also predicting further improvements in earnings per share, and promising yet higher dividends.

Mr Ken Roberts, the Norcros chairman, is telling shareholders profits will be £62 million, earnings per share 32p, and dividends 14p

a share in the year to end-March 1988.

Less than two weeks ago, Norcros estimated its profits in the year to end-March 1987 were 17 per cent up on the same period last year at £53 million, earnings per share up 31 per cent at 28p and dividends 29 per cent ahead at 12p.

Williams, which has made its 442p share swap bid a take-it-or-leave-it affair which expires in six days' time, will hit back today and question Norcros's ability to reach its

targets. "We don't think it is achievable, and we have done a lot of research on the company," said Mr Brian McCowan, Williams's managing director, yesterday.

He suggested the figures contained profits on properties and reflected pension fund holidays.

The growth of Norcros's profit estimates has been a number of City analysts. The shares, at 403p also signalled market expectations that Norcros had done enough.

Ratner's golden touch

Gerald Ratner, youthful head of Britain's biggest jewellery chain, plans to make fellow millionaires of at least 20 of his employees within five years. Seven Ratners executives already own more than 450,000 shares — worth more than £1.5 million at current market prices — and, through a share option scheme, a total of 20 of his original area managers are expected to notch up seven-figure bank accounts by 1992. A number of more recent managerial recruits from H Samuel — bought by Ratners last summer — will be following hot on their heels. They were given options at 250p in February. But that is small fry compared with Ratner's own executives, who were given share options three years ago at just 32p — then the market price. With its shares now standing at 345p, they are all sitting on huge profits. The 32p options have since been topped up with further tranches at 57p, 160p and 250p. "I think it's very important to incentivise staff," says Gerald, "it's one of the main ingredients of our success. We are also introducing profit-sharing scheme for all 7,000 of our staff."

Floral hall

Who said shop assistants don't earn much money? American salesgirl Judy Mashburn, who helps to run Laura Ashley's interior design business in New York, notched up sales of \$1.2 million last year — her first

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Floored in Tokyo

A correspondent of mine, despatched overseas, yesterday told where only three other British brokers were allowed to tread — on the trading floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. He assures me that when Exchange President Michio Takeuchi said recently that the Tokyo Stock Exchange floor was too

crowded to let more foreigners in, he was not joking — it was hot, noisy and crowded. "All 1,800 people connected with trading on the 1,600 square metre floor must have been there at the same time," he said. He did, however, say one small spare corner for determined applicants — only small candidates should apply.

year with the firm — and earned herself an undisclosed but "sizeable" commission. Clients of the design service — regarded as "preppy" in high-rise New York — include actor Richard Harris and Mrs Du

Pont, of the Du Pont chemicals family. Laura Ashley — which has a more middle income reputation in its native Britain — has other interior design outlets in San Francisco and Boston but none so far in the UK. It seems we think we can do it better ourselves.

Parrish pump

JT Parrish, the only publicly-quoted stockbroker, almost pulled off a hat-trick in the City of London race at the Twesledown point to point, near Aldershot, the other day. The race, which is now open to members of the Stock Exchange Point-to-Point Club, was won by Major Brian Ward, of the Colchester broking firm E F Matthews — now part of Parrish. The runner up was Thyrapid, owned by Nigel Viney, of the small London firm Dunkley Marshall, which is also now part of Parrish.

Franchising's big bang

Franchising, more usually associated with laundrettes and dry cleaning shops, is moving up-market. The man behind the move is Oxfordshire gun trader-turned-farmer Lance Warrington, who supplies clay pigeon shoots — known as The Shooting Box — to 11 franchisees, among them Lord Roschill of Petersfield in Hampshire. He recently received an approach from an Arab trader who asked if a portable shooting box could be dropped in the Middle Eastern desert for an afternoon's sport, making a change from their usual falcon hunts. Warrington drew up plans for a portable gun room, custom built as a trailer with air conditioning and four launching traps. The cost of the prototype model, without guns and clothing, came to £11,000. The full works, accompanied by a fully qualified shooting instructor, is priced at a cool £33,000. But Warrington has heard from his Arab agent that there are now negotiations going on with three key groups, two in Saudi Arabia and one in Dubai. "Four senior members of the Saudi royal family in Riyadh are also interested," added Warrington.

Barclays' chairman Sir Timothy Bevan has apparently been building up a nest-egg for his retirement later this year. By the end of last year he owned less than half as many Barclays shares as he did 12 months earlier. During 1986 the value of his holding was reduced from £42,059 to £22,559.

Carol Leonard

A

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ECONOMIC VIEW

Election cloud hangs over passage of Finance Bill

If the Prime Minister decides to go to the country in June, the main casualty suffered by the Budget could be the Finance Bill. The PRP clauses in the Finance Bill are not due to be debated on the floor of the House next week and might have to be abandoned if an election curtails the Bill's passage. The income tax clauses, on the other hand, will be debated, so there is little danger that the Government would not have its income tax cuts in place for a snap election.

The compromise reached between Government and Opposition whips is to take the clauses on income tax and associated changes in corporate tax in Committee of the Whole House next Wednesday, and on Thursday, to debate the relatively uncontroversial change on VAT, transferring small companies' liability from invoiced sales to cash receipts, followed by the clauses selected by Labour.

These are the raising of the threshold on Inheritance Tax, the clauses abolishing the Exchange Control Act, and changes in employee share schemes. Clearly Labour hopes to make some political capital out of relaxation of capital taxes on "the rich" and to re-emphasise its plans for



John MacGregor: some clauses may be lost

repatriating capital from abroad.

The rest of the Budget proposals are potentially at risk. After Committee of the Whole House, the Bill goes upstairs for the remaining clauses to be debated in the more serious forum of standing committees. This begins the following week, just before the local elections on May 7. If a general election is called, the remaining stages of the Bill will be rushed through. Those clauses that have been debated, plus any other measures on which agreement can be reached with minimum debate, will be included in a truncated Bill for Report stage and the remainder will fall.

The Government team, led

by Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will not be too concerned at losing some clauses. Under the British system there is often relatively little consultation before the Budget measures are announced. That means that at the debates on the Finance Bill, lobbyists can make themselves heard.

The greatest areas of controversy to emerge so far this year concern the proposals for taxation of Lloyd's, the treatment of corporate gains, especially as they affect life assurance companies, and the proposed change in the rules on additional voluntary contributions for occupational pensions.

The details of the Lloyd's proposals are still subject to negotiation between the Inland Revenue and Lloyd's (whose chief executive by coincidence is the ex-Revenue official Mr Alan Lord). But the principle on which the Bill will legislate is likely to divide the Tories. Some feel that anything which could conceivably threaten the fame and fortune — and export earnings — of Lloyd's is better omitted.

The proposal to change the treatment of capital gains made by companies and tax them at full Corporation Tax

rate rather than at a reduced fraction of CT has aroused little controversy, except among life assurance companies. For most companies the increase in the effective tax rate from about 30 to 35 per cent has been largely offset by the concession of allowing tax liability on capital gains to be offset against Advance Corporation Tax.

The concern about additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) to pension schemes relates to what the Chancellor once described as the "well-loved anomaly" of the tax-free lump sum. A proportion of pension rights — including those funded from AVCs — may be drawn on retirement as a tax-free lump sum. While introducing the proposed "free-standing" AVCs, which do not have to be attached to an occupational scheme, the Government has taken the opportunity to restrict both new and existing AVCs to the provision of pensions rather than lump sums. A row was predictable. It remains to be seen whether the Government feels obliged to make any concession or if the issue will become academic should an election be called.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the 173rd Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held within the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 5th day of May 1987 at 2.30 pm for the following purposes:

To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31st December 1986 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.

To elect Directors.

To appoint Auditors.

To fix the remuneration of Directors including, if thought fit, authorising the introduction of provision for pension and life assurance benefits.

To pass, if thought fit, the following Resolution recommended to the Members by the Directors:

"That the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year be fixed by the Directors of the Society."

To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote thereat, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A Proxy need not be a member of the Society.

C. M. CAVAYE
Managing Director
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU
7 April 1987

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Price	Change
Aldous (180p)	182 +2	
Burford (80p)	185 +2	
Cambridge (130p)	129 +1	
Capital Radio (100p)	167 +3	
Castle Comm (200p)	215 -1	
Cunard New (125p)	150 -1	
Dale Group (110p)	123	
Edwin (155p)	153	
Flintax (100p)	180	
JSR Sec (115p)	111	
Lon & Metro (145p)	245 -1	
MIL (144p)	194	
March 99	123	
Mallat (120p)	86 -5	
Metvile (114p)	126 +1	
Mercury Asset	305 +5	
Notro (132p)	173 +4	
Perpetua (180p)	193 +3	
RCO (95p)	100	

THIRD MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	Change
450	180	Aboliscat Group	390	410
50	10	Aberdeen Am Petrol	28	31
125	110	Allied Insurance	115	125
60	36	Cannell Comm	51	55
68	24	Coron Beach	60	65
195	121	Edenspring Inv	190	200
63	10	Epstein Oil Ireland	45	47
41	8	Do. Wilmar	32	34
29	17	Publicising Holdings	28	30
574	46	Thames Holdings	48	51
133	114	Unit Group	112	117

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
April 13	May 1	July 23	August 3
Call options were taken out on 22/4/87. Blackened Hodge, Barnard Matthews, Medical Ser, Squirrel Horn, Control Securities, Common Brothers, Easting Gold Mining, Portland Industries, Seashell & Sonnets, Wiggins, Oliver Resources, Poly Pack, Regal Properties, Astra Industrial Group, EBC Group, Puc Uster TV, Put & Call Martin Ford.			

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			
Market rates for 100 s.p. April 22	Market rates for 100 s.p. April 22	1 month	3 months
N York 1.8285-1.8290	1.8285-1.8275	0.44-0.45 prem	1.13-1.12 prem
London 2.1641-2.1635	2.1641-2.1635	0.42-0.43	1.13-1.12 prem
Am Vmcs 2.141-2.1390	2.1395-2.1400	11-12 p.p.m	1.13-1.12 prem
Brussels 61.38-61.57	61.45-61.57	19-12 p.p.m	46-50 prem
Chicago 11.1509-11.1507	11.1505-11.1507	20-22 1/2	52-55 1/2
Osaka 10.55-11.1111	10.55-11.1050	20-22 1/2	52-55 1/2
Frankfurt 2.9652-2.9628	2.9658-2.9725	19-15 p.p.m	44-48 prem
Liban 207.25-208.00	207.25-208.00	20-22 1/2	52-55 1/2
Stockholm 207.25-208.00	207.25-208.00	20-22 1/2	52-55 1/2
Manila 211.62-213.01	211.44-213.01	3-1 p.p.m	5-2 p.p.m
Ota 10.5555-11.1055	10.5555-10.5616	4-1 p.p.m	4-1 p.p.m
Paris 10.5555-11.1055	10.5555-11.1055	3-1 p.p.m	3-1 p.p.m
Sydney 10.2320-10.2118	10.2341-10.2118	5-1 p.p.m	5-1 p.p.m
Tokyo 201.25-202.04	201.25-202.00	11-13 p.p.m	35-35 p.p.m
Zurich 2.4348-2.4418	2.4348-2.4388	11-13 p.p.m	35-35 p.p.m
Sweden lines combined with 1975 was down at 72.4 (den's rate 72.4-72.5)			

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral*	2.4955-2.5038
Australia dollar	2.2010-2.2057
Bahian din	0.8191-0.8170
Brazil cruzeiro	38.58-39.00
Canada dollar	0.7170-0.7200
Philippine peso	1.7170-1.7210
Greece drachma	214.50-218.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.85-12.86
Indonesian rupiah	20.20-20.30
Italian lire	0.4164-0.4440
Kuwait dinar	2.2010-2.2050
Malaysian ringgit	1.00-1.02
Mexico peso	19.80-19.90
New Zealand dollar	0.7139-0.7224
Saudi Arabia riyal	2.2010-2.2050
Singapore dollar	3.7575-3.7473
S Africa rand (con)	5.2994-5.3002
S Africa rand (com)	5.2715-5.2725
Sri Lanka rupee	5.8580-5.9580
Uganda shilling	1.00-1.02
Yugoslavia dinar	1.00-1.02

DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Ireland	1.4925-1.4980
Singapore	2.1355-2.1363
Malaysia	2.075-2.078
Thailand baht	0.7035-0.7070
Philippines	1.3255-1.3300
Sweden	1.4925-1.4980
Denmark	4.6504-4.7500
Germany	1.8550-1.8700
Switzerland	1.4925-1.4980
Netherlands	2.0540-2.0550
France franc	2.0540-2.0550
Spain peseta	166.66-167.40
Belgium/Guam	1.4925-1.4980
Hong Kong	10.20-10.25
Japan yen	140.30-140.80
Spain peseta	166.66-167.40
Australia	1.4925-1.4980

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	BS	Industrials E-K	
2	Boycott	Industrials A-D	
3	Land	Industrials L-R	
4	Lamont	Textiles	
5	Evered	Industrials E-K	
6	More O'Ferrall	Paper, Print, Adv	
7	Sylos	Industrials S-Z	
8	Fisher (Albert)	Foods	
9	Levell (GF)	Foods	
10	Wellcome (as)	Industrials S-Z	
11	Michell (as)	Industrials L-R	
12	Br Car Auctions	Motor, Aircraft	
13	Cater Allen	Building, Roads	
14	Barrat Devy	Building, Roads	
15	Brown Shipley	Building, Roads	
16	Leigh	Chemicals, Plastics	
17	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
18	Boosey & Hawkes	Leisure	
19	Mount Charlotte	Motor, Aircraft	
20	RMC (as)	Building, Roads	
21	Morgan Grenfell	Banking, Finance	
22	BTP	Chemicals, Plastics	
23	Bridon	Industrials A-D	
24	Blue Circle	Building, Roads	
25	Perry (as)	Motor, Aircraft	
26	Ellis & Everard	Chemicals, Plastics	
27	Wolstenholme Rink	Chemicals, Plastics	
28	Alco (AG)	Foods	
29	Bank of Ireland	Banking, Finance	
30	Ward Higgs	Building, Roads	
31	Metal Box	Industrials L-R	
32	McCarthy & S	Building, Roads	
33	WCRS	Paper, Print, Adv	
34	Telephone Rentals	Electricals	
35	Home Farm	Foods	
36	Vickers	Industrials S-Z	
37	Midsummer	Leisure	
38	Scott & New (as)	Breweries	
39	Fisons (as)	Industrials E-K	
40	CKM (as)	Industrials E-K	
41	Alcon (as)	Textiles	
42	Staplebury (J) (as)	Foods	
43	Sidlow	Industrials S-Z	
44	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

UNDATED			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

INDEX-LINKED			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
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BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
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BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
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BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
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1987	High	Low	Open
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BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
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BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Open
100	100.00	100.00	100.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities bounce back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end Friday. Contango day Monday. Settlement day May 5.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks, volumes are on page 22.

1987	High	Low	Open	Change	%	P/E
100	100.00	100.00	100.00			

BREWERIES						
100	100.00	100.00	100.00			

BREWERIES						
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BREWERIES						
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1987	High	Low	Open	Change	%	P/E
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BREWERIES						
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BREWERIES						
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300	100.00	100.00	100


[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997	Price	Share	Yld	1997	Price	Share	Yld
High Low Company	Bid	Offer	%	High Low Company	Bid	Offer	%
181 197	197	197	197	368 298	298	298	298
182 197	197	197	197	369 298	298	298	298
183 197	197	197	197	370 298	298	298	298
184 197	197	197	197	371 298	298	298	298
185 197	197	197	197	372 298	298	298	298
186 197	197	197	197	373 298	298	298	298
187 197	197	197	197	374 298	298	298	298
188 197	197	197	197	375 298	298	298	298
189 197	197	197	197	376 298	298	298	298
190 197	197	197	197	377 298	298	298	298
191 197	197	197	197	378 298	298	298	298
192 197	197	197	197	379 298	298	298	298
193 197	197	197	197	380 298	298	298	298
194 197	197	197	197	381 298	298	298	298
195 197	197	197	197	382 298	298	298	298
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198 197	197	197	197	385 298	298	298	298
199 197	197	197	197	386 298	298	298	298
200 197	197	197	197	387 298	298	298	298
201 197	197	197	197	388 298	298	298	298
202 197	197	197	197	389 298	298	298	298
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204 197	197	197	197	391 298	298	298	298
205 197	197	197	197	392 298	298	298	298
206 197	197	197	197	393 298	298	298	298
207 197	197	197	197	394 298	298	298	298
208 197	197	197	197	395 298	298	298	298
209 197	197	197	197	396 298	298	298	298
210 197	197	197	197	397 298	298	298	298
211 197	197	197	197	398 298	298	298	298
212 197	197	197	197	399 298	298	298	298
213 197	197	197	197	400 298	298	298	298
214 197	197	197	197	401 298	298	298	298
215 197	197	197	197	402 298	298	298	298
216 197	197	197	197	403 298	298	298	298
217 197	197	197	197	404 298	298	298	298
218 197	197	197	197	405 298	298	298	298
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226 197	197	197	197	413 298	298	298	298
227 197	197	197	197	414 298	298	298	298
228 197	197	197	197	415 298	298	298	298
229 197	197	197	197	416 298	298	298	298
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247 197	197	197	197	434 298	298	298	298
248 197	197	197	197	435 298	298	298	298
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250 197	197	197	197	437 298	298	298	298
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277 197	197	197	197	464 298	298	298	298
278 197	197	197	197	465 298	298	298	298
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287 197	197	197	197	474 298	298	298	298
288 197	197	197	197	475 298	298	298	298
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297 197	197	197	197	484 298	298	298	298
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303 197	197	197	197	490 298	298	298	298
304 197	197	197	197	491 298	298	298	298
305 197	197	197	197	492 298	298	298	298
306 197	197	197	197	493 298	298	298	298
307 197	197	197	197	494 298	298	298	298
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313 197	197	197	197	500 298	298	298	298
314 197	197	197	197	501 298	298	298	298
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328 197	197	197	197	515 298	298	298	298
329 197	197	197	197	516 298	298	298	298
330 197	197	197	197	517 298	298	298	298
331 197	197	197	197	518 298	298	298	298
332 197	197	197	197	519 298	298	298	298
333 197	197	197	197	520 298	298	298	298
334 197	197	197	197	521 298	298	298	298
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Saving the inner cities

The problems of the inner cities are not new, but the methods of dealing with them are changing. They are among the key issues the Government will fight to get a third term of office

Urban renewal is to be one of the key issues on which the Government will fight for a third successive term in office, as Mrs Thatcher and her ministers have repeated several times in recent weeks.

With the inner cities caught up in what may seem like an ever-increasing spiral of decline, this commitment will raise three vital questions for those most closely involved in translating government policy into reality:

● Would greater intervention by Whitehall succeed where local authorities and market forces have so far failed to arrest the decline?

● What price would have to be paid in local democratic control if the areas involved, overwhelmingly Labour-controlled, have policies and resources directed by central government?

● To what extent would the Government's intentions be backed by more public-sector investment, which would be needed to encourage the private and voluntary sectors to play a greater role, or would any increase simply come out of other urban-aid budgets, such as the Urban Programme?

The problems of the inner cities are not new, but the methods used to deal with them are growing all the time. The latest, announced two weeks ago, is for Urban Regeneration Grants, payable directly to the private sector and worth up to £20 million in England this year.

A Labour White Paper in 1977 defined the problems as a combination of decayed

infrastructure, bad physical conditions, high levels of unemployment with limited job opportunities and a concentration of people with social difficulties.

Areas of multiple deprivation tend to include a high proportion of ethnic minorities. Half the ethnic minority population of England lives in government-designated partnership or programme authority areas, while many more are in areas supported by the Urban Programme.

With the memory of inner-city riots still fresh in their minds since the PC Blakelock murder trial, ministers are eager to show that their policies are working effectively without recourse to the more controversial recommendations of recent reports prepared by third parties, including the Duke of Edinburgh's housing study, the Archbishop of Canterbury's commission on urban-priority areas and recent speeches by the Prince of Wales.

Limited success in meeting the criteria

The Government's four main policy objectives are aimed at improving employment prospects, reducing the number of derelict sites and vacant buildings, strengthening the social fabric of inner city areas and encouraging self-help and reducing the number of people in acute housing stress.

Critics by no means all of them supporters of other parties, point to limited success in meeting these criteria, especially when it comes to housing.

But implementation of its policies relies on bypassing local authorities, few of which are recalcitrant on purely ideological grounds, and attracting private-sector finance, which has had dramatic results in London Docklands — a ratio of about £6 of private money to £1 public — but far less so in Merseyside — about 50p to £1. The last few months have

given grounds for optimism about the future — but for reasons hard to define. Perhaps they are due partly to a growing belief that any government would be willing to invest vast amounts of public-sector cash.

There have been indications that councils are not only prepared to take up their options on centrally administered grants but to enter into deals with the private sector.

The private sector, in its turn, has shown an increased willingness to invest. The building societies are also starting to enter into joint-venture deals or to set up development companies as a result of the Building Societies Act.

And the voluntary sector, which the Government acknowledges has a crucial role to play, is proving that community enterprise can flourish in many different forms to provide viable and self-sustaining projects at neighbourhood level.

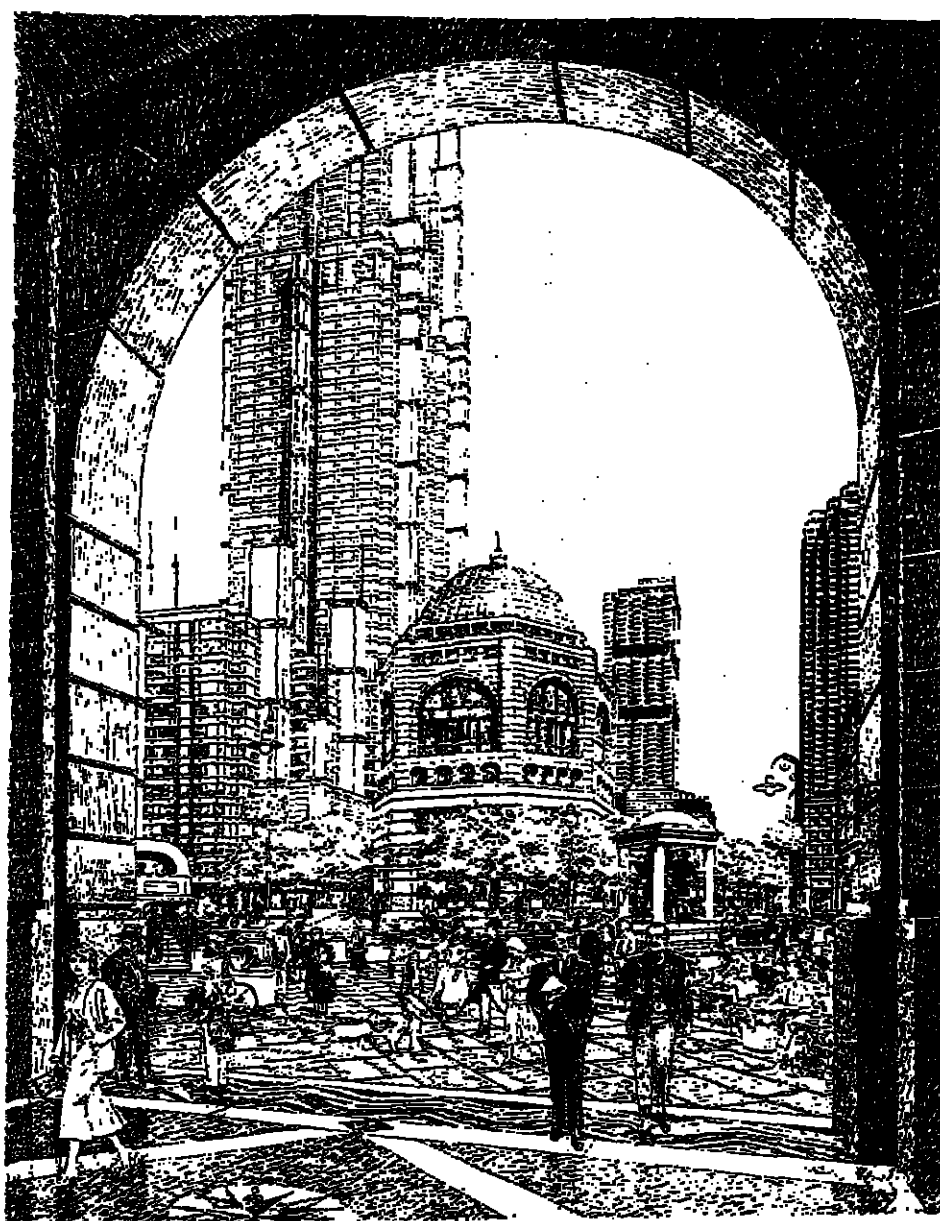
Non-profit-making development trusts are a particularly effective method of harnessing local effort for community rather than for personal gain.

Ministers see more urban development corporations as the principal way forward.

Four new ones in England were announced last year: in Trafford Park, Greater Manchester, already underway; Teesside and the Black Country, which are likely to receive Parliamentary approval soon, and Tyneside. A fifth, in Cardiff, has also just begun. Scotland relies on its Scottish Development Agency to perform a similar role.

Trafford and Cardiff have been welcomed by local councillors, both Tory and Labour, because they have some representation, even though the corporations effectively deprive the councils of decisions on a wide range of issues such as planning, housing and some services. Each new UDC will receive between £100 and £170 million over the first six or seven years.

The new Urban Regeneration Grants fill the gap between the UDCs and the Urban Development Grant, worth up to £30 million a year



Tomorrow's vision and today's reality: Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs will have three 850ft towers and millions of sq ft of office space. Costing £3 billion, it will match the Channel Tunnel; and, above, council housing in the deprived east London borough of Hackney

Six hundred years to beat blight

Decades of neglect, the high incidence of building failures in postwar housing and under-investment generally have contributed to the physical decline of Britain's inner cities.

As a country, we devote a smaller proportion of gross domestic product to the care and maintenance of the built environment than almost any other western nation. Government policy since 1979 has been to encourage a greater contribution from the private and voluntary sectors to remedy the situation.

Though it is difficult to quantify the scale of the task, evidence suggests that the total bill for urban renewal might total £85 billion — more than £4,500 a household, or about £1,500 per head of population. This can be extrapolated from government and construction-industry surveys.

All the recent reports on the inner cities, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priority Areas; the Duke of Edinburgh's

report on housing; *From Doom to Hope*, by the Office of the Chief Rabbi, and *Reviving the Inner Cities*, by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, refer to the appalling conditions in which

The appalling living conditions in areas of multiple deprivation

people have to live in areas of multiple deprivation.

A review of recently published material provides the following evidence of neglected Britain:

- Public-sector housing stock required immediate expenditure on repairs and maintenance of at least £18 billion.
- Private sector housing stock requires immediate expenditure on rehabilitation, improvement and repair of £26 billion.
- More than 3.8 million dwellings (84

per cent of all stock) need expenditure of an average of £4,900 a dwelling.

- The backlog of repairs and maintenance to public sector housing is growing at the rate of £900 million a year.
- The number of homes in serious disrepair rose from 860,000 to 1,200,000 between 1976 and 1986.
- There has been a cumulative shortfall of about 750,000 new dwellings over the past 10 years.
- Birmingham will need 600 years (at the present rate of progress) to carry out the full modernization of its housing stock.
- Manchester can afford to repair only 300 houses a year because of government cash limits.
- More than £2 billion needs to be spent on schools, and another £2 billion needs to be spent on hospitals, to bring them up to a proper standard.
- Derelict land accounts for 100,000 acres in the inner cities.

CK



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Wimpey's unique experience.

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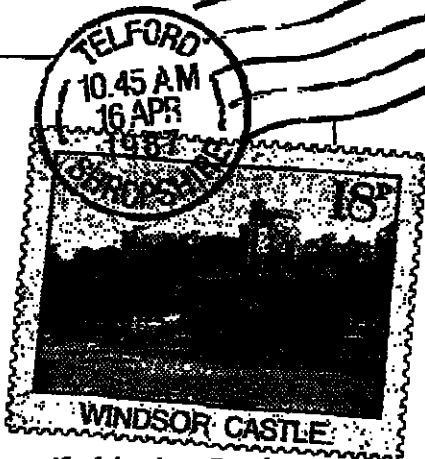
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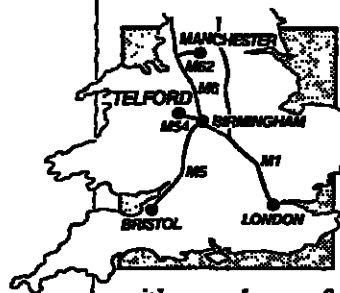
A decision which John Wybrew, Managing Director, had no qualms about whatsoever, even though he does spend a great deal of time in London.

In fact, he was pleasantly surprised at the ease with which he could reach London from Telford.

With its own motorway, the M54, linking into the UK motorway network, the town is a swift drive into London. Or just 2½ hours by Inter City train from Telford's Central Station.



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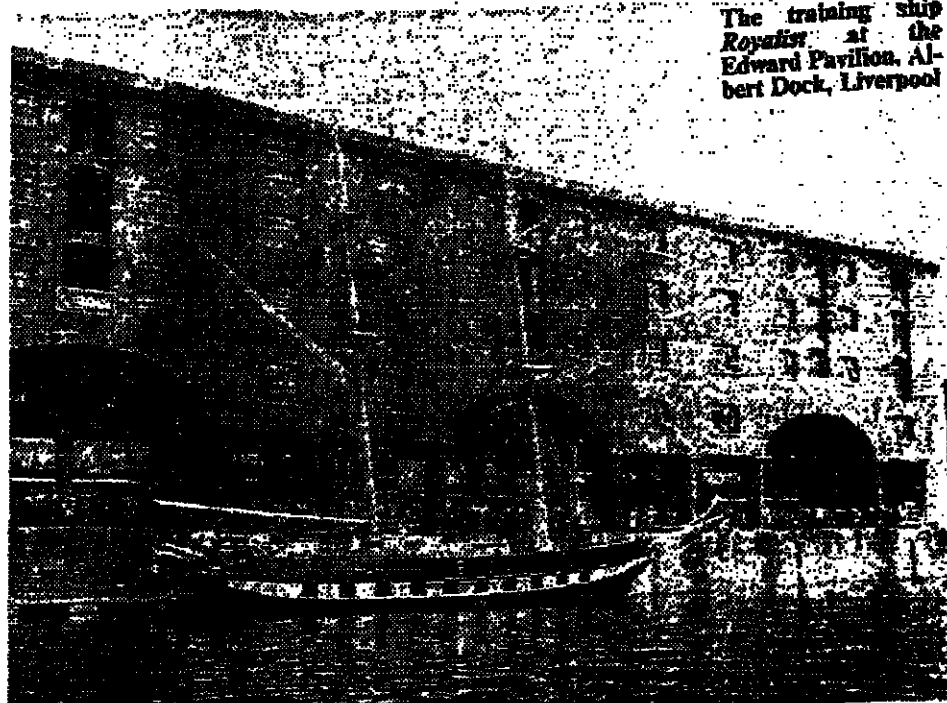
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URBAN RENEWAL/2

FOCUS

A project as big as the Channel Tunnel

Hugh Pearman, in a tale of reviving two docklands, finds a north-south divide exists on resources more than on projects



The training ship *Royal Albert* at the Edward Pavilion, Albert Dock, Liverpool

Two Urban Development Corporations were created in 1981, in London and Liverpool, with wide-ranging powers outside the jurisdiction of traditional local authorities, to get large new building projects under way in vast acreages of unused docklands.

Nearly six years later, the results are plain to see. So, too, are the marked differences in approach between the Merseyside Development Corporation (MDC) and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), despite the fact that both are equally able to assemble land and fund reclamation projects, set up development partnerships with the private sector and give planning permission.

The LDDC's area runs from London Bridge down to North Woolwich, taking in all the thousands of acres of redundant dock and former industrial areas.

The Corporation has been able to cash in on the development boom in London and the South-east. More recently, it has been further boosted by Stock Exchange deregulation in the nearby City of London, leading to demand for massive amounts of new office space.

It also has the benefit of an Enterprise Zone — an area covering much of the central Isle of Dogs section of London Docklands where there is no need for any planning permission, building works attract 100 per cent capital allowances, and rates are not payable until 1992.

The MDC covers a smaller area, split into three parts — Merseyside docks in Liverpool and in Birkenhead on the other side of the Mersey, and an inland site in Bootle. The

MDC has no Enterprise Zone — indeed, rejected the concept — and is affected by the stagnant economy of the depressed North-west.

The market for office space in Liverpool is sluggish, to say the least. Development prospects were not helped by the political upheavals of the past year. But following the touristic success of the 1984 Liverpool International Garden Festival, the MDC has changed course radically and committed itself to leisure development instead.

The change is masterminded by Dr John Ritchie, MDC chief executive. Dr Ritchie points out that the tourist potential of the Liverpool waterfront is vast. The Grade I-listed Albert Dock warehouse complex has proved a runaway success since its restoration.

It now houses the Merseyside Maritime Museum, the "Albert Dock Village" specialty shopping centre, restaurants and pubs. It will also include flats, offices and a northern branch of the Tate Gallery. Granada TV News has moved from Manchester to occupy the once-derelect Dock Traffic Office in one corner.

Even in its post-refurbished state, Albert Dock attracted two million visitors last year and won a European gold medal for conservation. The final cost of restoring Albert Dock will be £80 million.

London Docklands lacks any building as fine as Albert Dock, but has no trouble

London boasts one of the century's most exciting developments

pulling in giant commercial developments. Since 1981, the LDDC has spent around £344 million of Government money in attracting £1.6 billion of private investment. Its Government funding is running at £60 million a year, plus another £25 million for its part in colossal projects at Canary Wharf and further downstream in the Royal Docks. The MDC, in comparison, gets about £27 million a year all in.

The consortium proposes an office city which will comprise three 850-foot towers and many lower buildings. In all, there will be 8.8 million square feet of net office space, capable of being let, plus retail. It will cover a site of 71 acres, will provide 7,000 construction jobs and 49,000 office and service jobs, once completed. It will have 8,300 car parking spaces.

Just providing the below-ground infrastructure for Canary Wharf is estimated to cost £350 million. Its total cost at current prices is £3 billion, which puts it in the same league as the Channel Tunnel.

Canary Wharf has tended to eclipse other Docklands schemes, such as London Bridge City, on the south bank of the Thames between London and Tower Bridges. Half is already built. Phase two is proposed as a neo-Gothic office complex by American architect Philip Johnson. But even after all this, the Surrey Docks retail, office and housing schemes, there are still 1,000 acres of Docklands left — the immense Royal Docks further downstream.

Three developments are proposed here which, together with the Docklands City Airport due to open in October, will transform the Royals totally. The idea is to create an instant city in large pieces: development in smaller chunks would just take too long. The combined cost is £2 billion.

Tying all this together is the Docklands Light Railway, the first part of which opens in July. This runs from Tower Hill to Poplar with branches up to Stratford and down to the foot of the Isle of Dogs.

The Canary Wharf consortium is paying the £100 million cost of extending it from Tower Hill through to Bank station in the City: the extra traffic will mean almost immediate upgrading of the earlier part. The LDDC will later build an extension out east through the Royals — funded by rising land values in this next stage of the Docklands miracle.

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1,403 SALES

Private cash comes to the rescue

Ministers are drawing up a five-year rescue package for the inner cities at the Prime Minister's request. Plans for six new Urban Development Corporations are likely to be high on the list of priorities, in addition to the seven already in existence or soon to be ratified by Parliament.

Apart from providing a mechanism to bypass local councils, the attraction of UDCs, from the Government's point of view, is their proven ability to attract private-sector investment, especially from the building societies and private developers and from the insurance and pension funds.

The thinking in Whitehall is that local authorities should be relieved of the responsibility for public housing, which would be transferred to smaller trusts and tenant associations.

John Patten, the Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, said recently that the public estate had grown to such proportions in some cities that management and maintenance had become an impossibility.

Various incentives are available to take part in the massive reconstruction programme which is under way: Urban Development and Urban Regeneration grants, worth £30 million this year; Derelict Land Grants, worth another £81 million, of which £10 million has been set aside for private schemes; and £294 million under the Urban Programme, administered by local authorities.

The Department of the Environment also has a register of unused or under-used land owned by public authorities, which it can order to be sold on the open market; and the 17 enterprise zones in England offer rate "holidays", 100 per cent capital allow-

ances and a simplified planning process.

A report on the effectiveness of enterprise zones is now on ministers' desks, but at Telford a net increase of 7,500 jobs and the attraction of at least £55 million of private investment is claimed.

With the 1986 Building Societies Act coming into effect on January 1, the societies are starting to perform their original function again: building homes, for sale or to let.

Since 1975 the Halifax has put £700 million into the local-authority support



Robert Davies, development director for Business in the Community: "Our role is to act as a catalyst for member companies"

scheme, which gives council-nominated home-buyers the right to buy their property.

Together with the Nationwide, the Halifax has also committed £150 million to developments by Partnership Renewal of the Built Environment (Probe), a joint venture with Y. J. Lovell, the construction firm.

About £80 million has been allocated. Though Probe has a bias towards housing, it will also manage the private-sector development corporation being set up by Salford and Phoenix.

Like many others in the field, David Weeks, Probe's

general manager, identifies a new realism in local-authority attitudes to dealing with the private sector.

Building societies have started to become a prime alternative source of funding for housing associations, as grants from the housing corporation have dropped in real terms. North Housing, based in Newcastle, is Britain's biggest association and plans to raise up to £100 million from the City to build 3,000 homes over the next four years.

As North is taking the risk, against property assets worth £157 million, it will not form part of the public-sector borrowing requirement. Such arrangements are likely to increase in future, as the Government tries to encourage a revival of the privately rented sector.

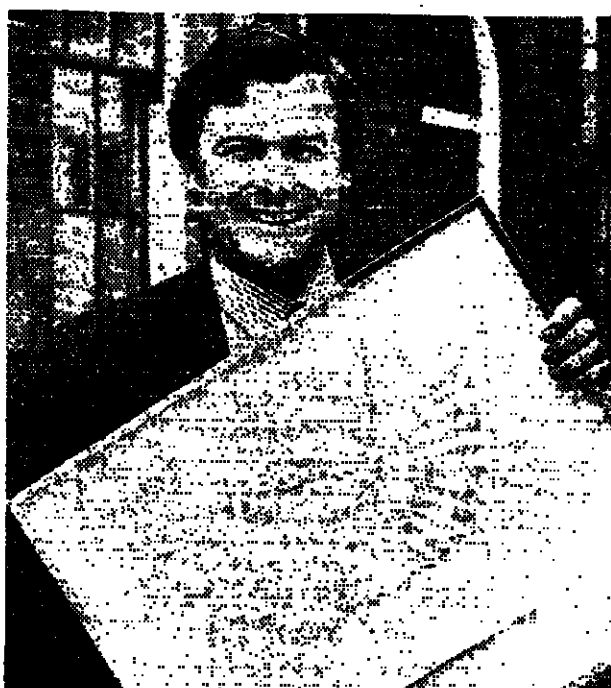
Short-life housing is re-emerging for small urban sites in an attempt to provide homes for those otherwise in bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

There is another way in which the private sector is becoming more involved in urban renewal through Business in the Community. Since 1981 it has created business-led local partnerships, principally enterprise and agencies and community action programmes. But it has recently moved into urban renewal through the launch of Britain's "one-town partnerships" in Halifax.

Robert Davies, BiC's development director says: "Our role is to act as a catalyst for a number of member companies as a sponsor's group to plan and consider joint projects with the local authority."

The action programme includes finding new uses for derelict land and buildings, thereby improving housing and amenities. If the idea works at Halifax, it will be replicated elsewhere.

Tarmac, the construction firm, is refurbishing a street of houses for 180 people in Handsworth, Birmingham, in agreement with the city council and the Government.



Chris Ledger: raising heads above the parapet

Holding garden festivals to boost inner city regeneration is an idea that has worked well in continental Europe — particularly in Germany during its post-war recovery period. In the 1980s, Britain adopted the idea to help mend cities suffering from economic, rather than wartime, damage.

Liverpool and Stoke have gone through the process, and Glasgow is to come next year. Is the concept working?

The notion of the garden festival is ingenious. A large derelict city site is selected. The Government, in partnership with local authorities, pumps in millions of pounds to reclaim and landscape the blighted earth. A garden festival is then held, which pulls in the investment of private companies for festival "features", together with the turnstile money.

Once the festival is over, the reclaimed site is either run as a continuing leisure attraction or is broken up for developers.

Do garden festivals work?

Government and councils get their money back, while local employment gets a permanent shot in the arm.

The experience of Liverpool and Stoke suggests that this satisfactory outcome is not easily arrived at.

Liverpool was an international festival, the only one that year (1984). Weather was good for visitors, if bad for plants. It made nearly £1 million operating profit in five months, but afterwards became a white elephant. A leisure company took it over in 1986, but went out of business.

Now the Merseyside Development Corporation is to sell large chunks of it for housing, and will promote the 45 acres remaining as a "regional theme park".

The Stoke Festival, two years later, had at first a

The Phoenix ready to rise

Manchester City Council and the Government may be at ideological loggerheads but they will be working in partnership, together with the private sector over the next few years, to repeat the successful American formula for urban regeneration which revived places such as Baltimore and Boston.

The ambitious plan has been masterminded by Chris Ledger, seconded from Shell, who is chief executive of the Phoenix Initiative. Manchester Phoenix is the first of several similar partnership deals expected to take wing over the next 18 months; the others will include Salford, to be announced in the next couple of weeks, and probably Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, the Midlands and two areas of London, one an inner borough, the other east of Docklands.

Phoenix's role is to act as an "honest broker" with no financial interest, says Mr Ledger. His task is to get all the interested parties to help them to pool resources towards common objectives.

He works on the WIIFM principle, "What's in it for me?" He says: "Find what titillates

them. Civil servants are after power and promotion, councillors want to be re-elected." Three projects seem likely to get underway in Manchester soon: on vacant land bordering the G-MEX exhibition centre, on a 20-acre site, a former gas works nearby, and in the Refuge building in Oxford Road.

Manchester, Salford and Trafford Park are likely to benefit from three simultaneous initiatives. Trafford Park is one of the Government's newly designated Urban Development Corporations which will cater for industry-led projects. The Salford Phoenix will be a privately managed urban-development corporation.

Mr Ledger adds: "We want people to raise their heads above the parapet together, not independently." His vocabulary is full of terms like synergy, vision, pride, self-confidence and lateral thinking.

How quickly and how high will this Phoenix fly? No time scale has been set for gauging its success, but it has created the possibility for regeneration where no alternative plans exist.

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THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

April 23, 1987

All the signs are that the severe shortage of properly qualified people in many areas of industry and commerce will become very much worse and will be the limiting factor on growth as Britain's economic turnaround gathers pace.

The problems come not from a lack of brains or basic aptitude but from shortcomings in education and training. Not only is industry becoming more and more dependent on highly skilled rather than semi-skilled or unskilled people but the numbers in the age group who should be most attuned to new technology are dropping and will continue to do so for several years. For instance, in 1991 there will be 30 per cent fewer 18-year-olds than there are today. Even on the most optimistic Department of Education and Science prediction contained in a recent White Paper, there will be an actual drop in the numbers completing degree and diploma courses in the 1990s, deepening the skills shortage.

If there are fewer young people, then it is critically important to improve the education of the smaller number. In our schools there is much good and dedicated teaching, despite the impression, sometimes given, but the shortage of mathematics and physics teach-

ers is very real and is only one sign of a system under serious strain.

The situation has not been helped in some places by the adoption of bogus educational philosophies that can amount to a confidence trick on students because in their public examinations and in their job applications they are rightly tested on their knowledge of the three Rs and other traditional subjects.

Our expectations in the schools are far too low. We have the ludicrous situation of average ability being officially defined as Grade 4 of the CSE exam. It is an insult to our young people to suggest that such a low standard represents their average ability. Is it any surprise that so many of them leave at 16 or even 15-plus? We can be quite sure that they will live up — or down — to our expectations of them.

The sooner we move to a criteria-referenced rather than non-referenced system the better, and in this respect the new GCSE examination may be an improvement. However the A-G grading system proposed for the GCSE will probably have a disastrous psychological effect on the "below average" student who evidently is going to be encouraged to attain the dizzy heights of a Grade F or G. What kind of incentive is that?

Training and education through working life are vital for a quick response to change, says Jack Levy



At least in the CSE system they could aim for a Grade 1 or 2. The GCSE grading system should be urgently reconsidered to give more incentive to higher performance.

The proof of an education system is in its results. So what does the record show?

In the mid-1960s the annual birthrate was about 950,000. In the mid-1980s, about 110,000 a year of those children are gaining first degrees (11.6 per cent). That percentage compares unfavourably with other developed countries, though it is at the next level down, in those of vital higher technical grade, that our weakness is dreadfully exposed.

The main route for students in

further education who are not taking degrees is via courses in polytechnics and colleges validated by the Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC). In session 1985-86 the number of awards made of the Higher National Certificate or Diploma was only 33,200, which is less than 4 per cent of the age group. The combined 15-16 per cent gaining awards at degree or Higher National level is one of the lowest in any developed country and is thoroughly inadequate for the future.

Even allowing for the good work going on at lower levels under the auspices of BTEC, the City and Guilds of London Institute and the Royal Society of Arts, the

number of properly educated people is likely to be quite insufficient.

What is done to help solve these problems? Certainly measures must be supported for all school pupils to study a broad and balanced curriculum up to the age of 16 years. From 16 to 18 there is also the need for a broader curriculum than at present, based on the projected A/S levels, and a consequent need for the universities and polytechnics to broaden their entry requirements.

Employers, too, must send out signals to increase the number of day-release and sponsored places on block release and sandwich courses within the framework of a national policy, which would make it financially worthwhile to do so.

But these remedies are of the long-term variety. To change the infrastructure of an educational provision, a decade can elapse between a start being made and the time students emerge with better qualifications. And this educational cycle can be, and usually is, out of phase with the industrial cycle of buoyancy and recession.

The best short-term hope of improving the education and

training of our young people may be with the new National Council of Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ), which the Government established last year. The NCVQ has the task of providing a national framework covering all occupations, at four levels of attainment, so that our education and training system can be both more accessible and better understood. The NCVQ will not award its own qualifications but will assess and accredit existing qualifications across the board.

But NCVQ will succeed only if it concentrates its efforts where they are really needed, at its lower levels I and II in order to integrate excellent innovations such as the Youth Training Scheme and the Technical and Vocational Initiative into the well established further educational system.

NCVQ may be tempted to stray prematurely into its higher levels III and IV, which may be more prestigious but which are already well established in most areas and have little to do with the vital area of transition from school to the world of work. This temptation should be resisted until NCVQ has established a track record at lower levels.

Educational standards and achievements by themselves are

not sufficient to assure competence in the work situation. The dovetailing element of training is also essential. International training comparisons unfortunately tend to show us in an even more unfavourable light than do those for higher education.

Time is short and the needs are great. A new initiative should be launched to sharpen many of the school reforms already begun. Also, the NCVQ must concentrate on the task of putting the feet of many thousands more young people every year on to the bottom rung of the career ladder.

We must establish a system for broader initial training with the stability and flexibility to serve a changing environment. More women must be encouraged to establish careers in industry and be enabled to continue them by the adoption of career-break schemes.

We must encourage, by means of practical incentives, employers and individuals to invest in continuing education and training throughout working life so that response to technological change and to the ups and downs of different sectors of industry and commerce can be more assured.

Professor Jack Levy is engineering profession director at the Engineering Council

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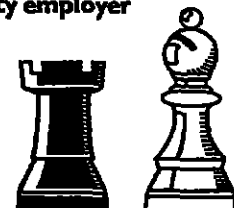
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The post is based at FCEC's head office in Holborn. Applications, marked Confidential and headed Economics, sent to: Mr. J. G. Jones, FCEC, 6 Portland Street, London WC2A 2HH by not later than 15th May 1987.

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Leicestershire Health Service

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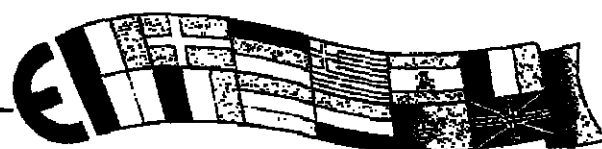
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is holding a competition, on the basis of qualifications and tests, to draw up a reserve list
for the recruitment of English-speaking

TRANSLATORS (m/f)

The persons appointed will be required to translate into English texts relating to the
activities of the Communities from French and one or more of the other official
languages of the Communities: Danish, Dutch, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese or
Spanish

Main conditions of eligibility:

University-level education, attested by a diploma or certificate showing that studies
have been completed, or equivalent professional experience;
a perfect command of English, a thorough knowledge of French and an adequate
knowledge of one or more of the following languages: Danish, Dutch, German, Greek,
Italian, Portuguese or Spanish;
date of birth after 31 December 1951

Professional experience as a translator is desirable and particular account will be
taken of this.

Candidates must be nationals of one of the Member States of the European Communities
The net monthly salary is £ 1,599 plus, where appropriate, expatriation allowance
(16 % of the basic salary) and household and family allowances, etc.

Place of employment: Brussels.

The text of the notification of competition and the compulsory application form may be
obtained by writing, on a postcard, by 1st June 1987, to the
Recruitment Department, Competition LA/300, General Secretariat of the Council,
rue de la Loi 170, B-1048 Brussels.

Closing date for receipt of official application forms: 15 June 1987.



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Air Lanka Ltd., the National Carrier of Sri Lanka operating into 23 destinations in Europe, Middle East and the Far East, is seeking a person with exceptional qualities for the above challenging position.

The candidate should demonstrate a high level of management competency and a convincing level of achievement in the public or private sector and a capacity to operate successfully in a highly competitive environment. The ideal candidate should preferably be 35-45 years of age, and have at least 5 years experience at senior managerial level. He should be marketing oriented and be able to take responsibility for an annual budget approaching Rs.3,500 million and a staff of around 3,500.

He should either be a graduate from a recognised University or professionally qualified, preferably in the field of business management.

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All applications will be treated on a strictly confidential basis and those of unsuccessful candidates returned to them.



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We envisage first interviews hopefully taking place after your exams, during week commencing 8th June 1987

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HORIZONS

A guide to
career development

The accountant as father

Accountancy examinations are the modern world's equivalent to initiation rites in primitive societies. They test the candidates' knowledge of the laws of the tribe and they probe the individual's ability to take on adult responsibilities. As a result, they mark a decisive step towards a form of "organizational parenthood".

In a society driven by finance, accountants have demonstrated that they can deal sensibly with the vital questions of controlling, saving, and spending money. Consequently, the accountants in most organizations play the role of parent.

They decide who gets the pocket-money, how it should be spent and do the ticking-off if it is overdrawn. It is not surprising therefore that they are often resented by their colleagues in much the same way that adolescents resent the discipline of their father or mother. Having to rein in youthful enthusiasm or temper unrealistic ambitions doesn't make you popular. But that is what accountants are good at. And in a confusing world this discipline and control is tacitly valued because it provides a sense of order.

The good accountant will have all the virtues of the good parent - firmness dispensed with sympathy, understanding blended with responsibility.

Therefore, it is not surprising, for example, that Michael Checkland, an accountant, got the top job at the BBC. At a time of difficulties for the corporation what was needed most was the sure hand of a good parent who could deal with a bunch of unruly children and also balance the family budget.

This pattern is repeated in most organizations. Accountancy training is a proven foundation for getting to the corporate pinnacle. It is the reason why accountants often end up working in general management because, having

Wisdom needed when restraints are applied

entered through the accountancy function, they have proved that they can exercise wider responsibilities.

So if you want to be a successful accountant model yourself on the enlightened parent. In the climb up the corporate ladder you will be expected to show technical skills of monitoring and control but also some liberal imagination to allow the organization to flourish.

In the quest for order and stability prudence and wisdom are also required in the way restraints are applied.

For example, in an advertisement for a finance director to join an East Anglian engineering company it was made clear that as well as the technical skills of accountancy and some familiarity with mechanical engineering the company's most important requirement was "the strength of personality and vision necessary to participate in strategic decisions and to make a positive

In the second of his articles on accountancy, Edward Fennell shows how qualities other than being good at figures can take an accountant to the top of a company



contribution to the achievements of ambitious growth plans".

Another vacancy for a finance director with a health care company called for "strong personality, maturity and self-confidence".

And a post as international accountant with a soap-and-toothpaste manufacturer required "demonstrably high interpersonal skills, coupled with enthusiasm and the desire to be a member of a winning team".

The lesson from this is clear. To succeed at the highest level in accountancy technical skills alone are not enough. Whether you go into a large organization as a company accountant, enter the public service, or become a partner in public practice, the feature which your colleagues and clients will most value is the ability to use your technical skills in a way which is sympathetic to their goals.

The demand for "the accountant-as-parent" stretches into every organization. It means that there is great scope to work in whatever environment suits your temperament.

The Arts Council, for example, was advertising recently its training course for newly qualified accountants who wished to enter arts administration. And you will frequently find theatre companies and orchestras who are dependent on their accountants for their sense of direction and identity.

Likewise, the world of video and TV could increasingly become dominated by the men and women who understand the medium of the balance sheet.

Take the case of David Cope, a chartered accountant and the general and finance director with Workhouse Productions, a video and TV production company which has recently become one of the first independent companies to get a major commission from the BBC.

He had wide experience in public practice and industry before coming to Workhouse. Having worked for Rolls Royce, ICI and Chloride Europe, he had a solid background in day-to-day financial control which is essential for dealing with the cash flow challenge of any company in a field like video production.

"I rather drifted into accountancy because I couldn't think of anything else to do, and in some respects I have been a reluctant accountant," he conceded. "However, it has given me the skills and opportunity to get involved in some very interesting work and I value my accountancy training for that reason."

One of the dangers of accountancy, says Mr Cope, is that it can muzzle enterprise: in the pursuit of short-term returns the accountant's horizons may be restricted. This is why in his case a spell at Bradford Business School was invaluable in broadening perspectives and raising awareness of what might be possible.

"Business school was very useful because it taught me to think like a chief executive. I gained a wider awareness of what running a company was about and I was encouraged to take a more entrepreneurial approach to life."

Few things could be more enterprising these days than selling computers. Mark Stafford began his professional life with a small firm of chartered accountants and from there went to join an approved DEC agent as the company accountant. Within a year or two he was transferred into the lucrative work of selling computer systems.

The reason wasn't just that he had the

Add creativity and your prospects are unlimited

entrepreneurial zest for selling, his other asset was that his knowledge of accountancy systems meant that he was ideally placed to sell expensive hard and software to other accountants. As one accountant to another he could be convincing and reassuring - he knew what he was talking about in a way that most computer salesmen don't.

Both Mark Stafford and David Cope illustrate the point that the instinctive caution and conservatism which characterize accountancy need to be used as strengths but not limitations on the way to the top.

Of course, there will always be a strong demand for the people who can prepare budgets and forecasts and can undertake performance analysis. Detailed technical skills, intelligence and methodical working methods will always guarantee a secure job. But when these are combined with creativity and enterprise the prospects are unlimited.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: ONE WIGAN SUCCESS STORY AND ANOTHER WHICH MAY YET MATERIALIZE

Imports of prime quality

When Rob Louw and Ray Mordt pulled up roots in their native South Africa and donned the unfamiliar colours of Wigan, few followers of the League code would have anticipated their emergence as chief contributors to the club's championship triumph 12 months later.

The road to Wigan was never meant to be paved with gold or seen as a land of opportunity, yet for the two former Springboks this was a new challenge which promised financial security. Quite a rosy prospect until you consider that wintering in Wigan is a far cry from surfing in Cape Town, and that they had hardly seen the game of Rugby League.

Their decisions to make the transition was a shock to the Rugby Union world. Any man who sells his soul to the 13-a-side code, is seen as something of a heretic. These two had the added burden of being South African. Back home they were subjected to a vitriolic Press campaign ranging from the South African Board chairman Dr Danie Craven's trade that they were "traitors and chickens" to accounts of the grim reception they were likely to encounter on the field. To a large extent the emotional intimidation and moral blackmail was a measure of the esteem in which they were held.

Louw, aged 31, with 19 caps, was one of the shrewdest and most forceful back-row players in the modern game and captained the World XV in Cardiff three years ago, whilst 29-year-old Mordt's electrifying pace on the wing had brought him 12 tries in just 18 international games including a marvellous treble in the third international against New Zealand in 1981. His many crucial tries in the run-in to the championship, have enhanced his reputation.

It had not been an easy decision but, once made, the two South Africans were determined to stick by it. "Of course it was a wrench to leave home," said Mordt. "But the last-minute cancellation of the All Blacks' Tour in '85, followed shortly by the same thing with the Lions, knocked the stuffing out of us. We'd



Ray Mordt: a typically determined approach from the former South African international

never had switched if it hadn't been for that.

"That was the catalyst, the offers came in, we weighed it up, considered we both only had three to four years left in the game and decided to make what we could out of it."

What they make in fact amounts to quite a considerable sum. A £75,000 signing on fee, plus £200 per match, a win bonus up to a £1,000 for finals, plus free housing and bills.

Their 12-month apprenticeship is almost up, and not much has been heard of them since their arrival. Had the stiff-necked tacklers got to "Not at all," says Louw, "If anything provincial rugby in South Africa is harder. Having said that some clown

will come and smack the living daylight out of me next week."

"We're no longer in the limelight for several reasons. Firstly, we are novices and still very much learning the trade. Secondly, League doesn't command the same national Press attention as Union and when it does it quite rightly concentrates on the home product. Thirdly, we're in one of the most cosmopolitan sporting sides ever assembled and, to my mind, one of the most impressive teams I've ever played in. It's not easy making a name for yourself in such illustrious company."

Indeed it is not, such is the concentration of talent in

Wigan's back-line, two international scrum halves — Shaun Edwards and Andy Gregory — the New Zealander, Dean Bell, and the international triumvirate of Lydon, Gill and Hanley not to mention Mordt. Louw himself is up against internationals in Great Britain's Ian Potter and the Wallaby second row, Ian Roberts.

Life in Wigan has been an education for them both, and quite apart from rugby, has given them much to think about during the bleak winter days. Louw, a laid-back, gregarious sort, has tried dabbling in importing South African wine but, as he says: "It's not easy selling South Africa."

Mick Cleary

Blackpool find a new home at last

By Keith Macklin

The Rugby League management committee will be asked next month to approve a contract agreement signed yesterday which will transfer players, directors and other assets of Blackpool Borough to the Wigan Athletic football ground, Springfield Park, next season. Under a ground-sharing agreement a new second division club will be formed at Wigan from a strong nucleus of Borough players, the majority of whom live in the Wigan area.

Before the agreement was signed at Springfield Park, Deryk Brown, the Blackpool Borough secretary, read a statement which said: "For 33 years Blackpool Borough have struggled to survive in a town which has shown little inclination to support the game. Average gates of 500 went no way towards meeting costs, and with losses of £10,000 a game, and a bill of nearly £100,000 for safety work the club would have had no chance of surviving into next season."

A 13-man board has been set up to control the new club, and its chairman is a businessman, Mike Marsland, with Dragan Lukic, formerly chairman of Stockport County Football Club, the vice-chairman. Five Blackpool directors are on the new board and the former chairman, Jack Hart, is vice-president.

The initial ground-sharing contract is for five years, with a further five-year option, and Marsland said: "We can be financially viable on home attendances of between 1,500 and 2,000, and surely we can get crowds of this size in a rugby-mad town like Wigan. We shall also run a reserve team and do all we can to encourage amateurs in the area."

The prospect of a second club in Wigan has received a frosty reception from the all-powerful Wigan club at Central Park. Maurice Lindsay, their vice-chairman, said: "I hope the good sense of the management committee will prevail when the application comes forward. It's like trying to sneak into a royal garden party without a pass." Despite this display of apparent hostility, four grapes for the Blackpool director and Wigan League council member Reg Parker said: "I believe the application will be successful."

Changes at Penina golf course

From Mr J. Hamilton Stuart

Sir, As one who had the pleasure of working with Henry Cotton on the creation of Penina from a rice swamp, I know how much thought and love he put into the golf course. I can therefore well understand the anguish he must now feel at seeing it messed about, as so graphically described to Brian James's excellent article (April 18). I am happy to report that the perpetrator of the changes at Penina is not a member of golf architecture's professional body — the British Association of Golf Course Architects. Our rules expressly forbid interfering with a living professional golf architect's work without his written permission. Irrespective of our rules, I cannot imagine a single one of our members ever behaving in this way, least of all behind the creator's back, with-

out even the courtesy of prior detailed discussion. After nearly 40 years' experience of golf architecture and training in the allied skills of civil engineering, agronomy, and landscape architecture, I know I am still learning. It is amazing how so many able and successful people will still choose designers with very little experience of the very complex subject of golf architecture and a negligible track record of successful courses (i.e. enjoyable to all grades of golfer and not requiring expensive alterations after construction is completed). Sincerely, J. HAMILTON STUART, Founder, Member and Past President, British Association of Golf Course Architects, Bergen, 12 Bingham Avenue, Poole, Dorset, April 21.

Licensing hours

From the Chairman, Derbyshire County Cricket Club

Sir, On April 16 this year, Derbyshire participated in a lottery and lost between £5,000 and £10,000. No, the committee were not changing the members' assets at Monte Carlo, but merely applying for Special Orders of Exemption to extend the licensing hours in the Lunt Pavilion at Derby to cover the afternoons of first team matches during the 1987 season.

Ever since we, as long as anyone can remember, the pavilion, and before it the Grandstand Hotel adjoining the ground, have been granted such special orders. However, under S.74 of the Licensing Act 1964 the justices have a very wide discretion in deciding what is a "special occasion" for the purpose of granting such an extension, and the Derby justices, in spite of hearing no objections from the police, decided that a county cricket match was not a "special occasion" as they could have done at any time in the past (or the future), ignoring our own precedent.

I intend no criticism of the

justices, who are asked to apply an archaic and illogical licensing law in a way which is totally unproductive and potentially highly damaging to the applicant.

Derbyshire's loss arises from lost bar sales and sponsorship income, and this is vital to every county club. The loss could fall at any time on any of us.

The only real solution is to sweep our antiquated licensing laws into the dustbin of history, where they belong, and allow responsible organizations to serve alcohol to the public, or in Derbyshire's case to members and sponsors, at reasonable times during the day.

If the bill at present going through Parliament to that end fails, then it is the duty of the Government to correct the ridiculous situation which exists. The financial security of county clubs and many other sporting organizations may depend on it.

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER MIDDLETON, Chairman, Derbyshire County Cricket Club, Nottingham Road, Derby.

Achilles tendons

From Dr Peter N. Sperry

Sir, It can be highly dangerous to encourage people with ruptured Achilles tendons to pursue an active rehabilitation as outlined in your article on Jonah Barrington (April 9).

In the very active athlete the price you may pay for conservative healing is about a 10 per cent loss of power in the tendon (which is quite often in practice as an old neglected injury which has healed spontaneously) is lengthening. This is because the calf muscle, drawing on the top end of the Achilles tendon upwards towards the calf in response to natural muscle tension. This leaves a gap between two torn ends of the Achilles which simply does not budge, but is held in position. While the man in the street may not notice a slight loss of function, any athlete who needs full striding, thrusting, jumping and landing power must certainly feel the complaint bitterly after his new loss of full power after non-surgical Achilles tendon management.

I would have to be very

sceptical about the chances of an optimal outcome to Mr Barrington's injury if, as reported, he has suffered a complete Achilles rupture. This would be because each day's free exercise would allow the newly forming gap of scar tissue between the two ends of the Achilles slowly to widen. It cannot help it to shorten. The outcome will be some loss of calf muscle power.

The philosophy behind this management is, I believe, fundamentally flawed. A top athlete will need not only the fullest anatomical restoration available, but a maintenance of fitness and there is no need for this to go by default. There is nothing to stop the plastered athlete from the fullest training to the rest of his body. I have many patients who maintained and even improved their general fitness during such times of immobilization by determined training. Yours sincerely, PETER SPERRY, Consultant in Physical Medicine, Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge, Middlesex, April 14.

Underarm bowling

From Mr Peter Lewin

Sir, I have often wondered about two things when the cricket season is in full swing.

1. Why has underarm bowling completely disappeared in first-class cricket? A hundred years ago there were really first underarm bowlers, to say nothing of some who specialised in grubbing. There was the great all-round sportsman the Hon Alfred Lynton who at the Oval in 1884, being the England captain and wicketkeeper, was frustrated that Australia was over 500 and all members of the

team had bowled, but himself took off his pads and took 4 for 19 with underarm lofts. What a sight that would be today! Is any English captain brave enough to experiment with underarm deliveries?

2. I recall the extraordinary Australian professional W.E. Midwinter who played first for Australia, then for England and finally for Australia again. Perhaps in this age of monetary temptations we may see something of the sort again. Yours truly, PETER LEWIN, The River House, The Croft, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Sale of MCC collection

From Mr Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane

Sir, May I applaud the MCC for selling their second XI treasures. Not only is their museum now adequately funded for future conservation and purchases but ecclesiastical collections such as this have greatly appreciated the opportunity of access to items previously denied.

I have no doubt that my great grandfather, who was effectively the founder of the Lord's art collection, would be delighted to know that his cricket mementos will be seen and enjoyed around the world.

It is too much to hope that all museums will now have the courage to "follow on" or most other sports that have been tucked away for ever out of sight, out of mind in dusty dungeons? Yours faithfully, CHARLES CLIVE-PONSONBY-FANE, The Zingari Cricket Club Collectors, 100, Brompton Office, Brompton d'Everey, Yeovil, Somerset.

From Mr Eric Barton

Sir, I deplore the desecration of the hallowed and historic Long Room at Lord's. For the last few days it has been turned into a street market, trodden through by all and sundry.

Is it possible that the temple opposite now in process of completion, has been built to appease the avenging Eumenides? It may placate the Furies, but surely not the shades of Lord Harris and Sir Pelham Warner. This must never happen again. Yours very sincerely, C. G. STANLEY, 44 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey.

Laws of Motion

From Mr C.J.G. Stanley

Sir, Mr Felle's argument (Boat physics, April 16) based on Newton's Laws of Motion is surely open to question.

It is doubtful whether the "equal and opposite reaction" is confined to the water around the blades, but even if it were to be the rearward momentum imparted to that water is extremely localized and the premise could surely hold good only in the case in which the following crew is rowing exactly in the puddles of the leading one. Yours faithfully, C.J.G. STANLEY, 35, Elmham Place, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Use of substitutes

From Dr V. Goldberg

Sir, Rugby Union has got the question of player substitution right.

When a player leaves the field because of injury, a doctor is available to give an immediate ruling as to whether or not a substitute should be allowed. There is virtually no interruption to play, but since the whole procedure only takes two or three minutes, any disadvantage a side may suffer is reduced to a minimum. Yours faithfully, VALERIE GOLDBERG, 6 Witley Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex.

Just not cricket

From Miss Shilpa Samant

Sir, If India or Pakistan want to bag the World Cup in October, they could request England not to spoil the fun by participation. But to adopt a dubious way of winning via an unpopulated South African "connection" of some players is just not cricket. Yours faithfully, S. SAMANT, c/o Mansfield College, Oxford, April 15.

SCHOOLS CRICKET

Staying in the family

By George Chesterton

A long-standing family tradition is continued at Ampleforth, where Ben Beardon-Gray, the fifth of five brothers, captains an experienced team, the Hampshire brothers, Chesterton will give stability to their batting.

At Brighton, bowling will be largely spin-orientated. In contrast, Osmile can call on both of last year's opening bowlers to support experienced batting led by McMillan, the captain. Morris, the captain of Stowe, scored over 1,000 runs last year. Guy Barker and Alister Robinson both scored centuries at Marlborough. Vice-Chancellor Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Nourse (Judgment April 9)

A lodge cottage set in a country park that was used for country recreation formed part of an "open space" within the meaning of section 26(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1959. In the result an attempt by two local authorities to prevent the tenant of the lodge from exercising his statutory right to buy by granting a 30-year lease of the lodge did not succeed as they had not given the required notices of intention to dispose of the lodge.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments upholding a decision of Mr Justice Hodgson (*The Times* March 11, 1986) in favour of the tenant, Mr John Charles Freeman, allowing his application for judicial review in respect of the grant of a lease in 1984 by Plymouth City Council and Cornwall County Council of Maker Lodge, Mount Edgcombe, Torpoint, Cornwall.

The declaration made on the application was that the tenant having a statutory right to purchase the freehold of the property under the Housing Act 1980, as amended by the Housing and Building Control Act 1984.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1959, as amended by paragraph 5 of Part III of Schedule 23 to the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, provides by section 26: "(2) Before disposing of any land which consists or forms part of an open space, a local authority shall publish notice of their intention to do so for at least two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in their area; and (b) shall consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them."

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC and Mr Graham Stokes, for the councils, Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr Richard de Lacy for the tenant.

MOTOR SPORT

BMW deal is agreed for Ligier team

Paris (AFP) — Guy Ligier, head of the Ligier Formula One team, has signed an agreement with BMW to supply turbo-charged BMW engines for the rest of the grand prix season.

Ligier was unable to compete in the Brazilian Grand Prix two weeks ago, when Alfa Romeo cancelled their support of engines after criticism from René Arnoux, one of the Ligier drivers.

Ligier hopes to be able to make the necessary chassis and body modifications in time for the San Marino Grand Prix, at Imola, Italy, on May 3. However, it is more likely they will not be ready before the Belgian Grand Prix, at Spa-Francorchamps, two weeks later.

FISHING

Canoeists provoke war

By Conrad Voss Bark

Fishermen and landowners have combined to wage a minor war against militant canoeists. Law-abiding canoeists, through their local and national organizations, negotiate agreements with landowners and fishing clubs for access to rivers. These work well if they are kept.

But there have been growing complaints from fishing clubs about canoeists who do not recognize any restriction on access, even during fishing matches. There has been conflict and physical violence, especially on some Yorkshire rivers like the Wharfe.

I also heard of a case of a canoeist on one of the Welsh rivers, who was suddenly surrounded by a coven of canoeists who were making a great number of rude remarks to him. He cast across them, hooked one of their canoes and landed it.

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 23 1987

Court of Appeal

Cottage in park is 'open space'

Regina v Plymouth City Council and Another, Ex parte Freeman

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Nourse (Judgment April 9)

A lodge cottage set in a country park that was used for country recreation formed part of an "open space" within the meaning of section 26(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1959. In the result an attempt by two local authorities to prevent the tenant of the lodge from exercising his statutory right to buy by granting a 30-year lease of the lodge did not succeed as they had not given the required notices of intention to dispose of the lodge.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments upholding a decision of Mr Justice Hodgson (*The Times* March 11, 1986) in favour of the tenant, Mr John Charles Freeman, allowing his application for judicial review in respect of the grant of a lease in 1984 by Plymouth City Council and Cornwall County Council of Maker Lodge, Mount Edgcombe, Torpoint, Cornwall.

The declaration made on the application was that the tenant having a statutory right to purchase the freehold of the property under the Housing Act 1980, as amended by the Housing and Building Control Act 1984.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the tenant had lived in Maker Lodge, Mount Edgcombe, since 1956. In 1971 Plymouth City Council and Cornwall County Council acquired the Mount Edgcombe estate "to provide a country park... for the enjoyment of the public by the public."

The tenant remained in Maker Lodge as a tenant of the two councils.

In 1981 the tenant had given notice under section 5 of the Housing Act 1980 to buy Maker Lodge. The councils resisted stating that they required at some time to use the lodge as an information centre for the park.

They had put forward two reasons why the tenant was not entitled under the provisions of the 1980 Act to buy: (1) that as the lodge was owned jointly by the two councils, one of which was not a local authority, the tenant was not a "secure tenant" under section 28 of the Act, and (2) that the lodge did not form part of the local authority's housing stock under Part V of the Housing Act 1957. At that time the tenant had no answer to that second reason.

However in May 1983 the Housing (Extension of the Right to Buy) Order (SI 1983 No 672) extended a tenant's right to buy to houses held by local authorities otherwise than under Part V of the 1957 Act.

Then in 1984 Parliament debated the new Housing Bill — that became the Housing and Building Control Act 1984 — that was to have the effect of destroying the argument that the tenant was not a secure tenant because the landlord interest was jointly owned and Cornwall County Council was not a local authority.

they together granted a 20-year lease of Maker Lodge (and of two other properties in the park) to Plymouth City Council alone.

Thus it came about that the tenant by notice dated September 24, 1984 applied for leave to seek judicial review of the grant of that lease. In December 1985 he gave a further written notice to the council claiming the right to buy the lodge.

Mr Justice Hodgson in February 1986 granted the tenant the declaration that he sought, holding, *inter alia*, that the grant of the lease to Plymouth City Council was invalidated by their failure to comply with the requirements of section 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1959. The councils appealed against the judge's decision.

It was agreed by the parties that the lodge forms part of an open space, there was such a failure; no notices had been published in any newspaper before the grant of the lease.

The tenant's case was that the lodge was within the definition of "open space" in section 11(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 as including any land "laid out as a public garden, or used for the purpose of public recreation". The country park plainly was within the definition and the lodge formed an integral part of the park.

Additionally, he argued, the lodge was itself used for the purpose of public recreation in the sense that it and the surrounding trees formed part of the country scene and it mattered not that the public had no access to it or to its gardens.

The councils' case was that the lodge neither consisted of an open space nor formed part of one. But even if a notice should have been given, the lease was valid by reason of the saving provisions of section 128(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

His Lordship said that he was of the opinion that the lodge formed part of the park it had been acquired as part of an integral whole. It, together with the surrounding trees, could be regarded as being used for public recreation although the public had no access to it.

The councils had thus been under a duty to publish a notice: it was impossible for them to rely on section 128(2) of the 1972 Act to protect the lease from the consequences of their own breach. The lease was accordingly invalid.

The remaining issue on the councils' appeal concerned whether the tenant was a secure tenant before 1984. That point was no longer relevant in the context of the tenant's right to buy.

Property construed the words in section 28(2) of the Housing Act 1980 "the interest of the landlord" did not mean "the interests of any of the landlords". The decision of the judge that the "landlord condition" was satisfied if the interest of the landlord belonged only partly to a relevant landlord as joint owner was wrong.

The tenant now had the right to buy the lodge but he was not a secure tenant of the property at any time before August 1984.

The Vice-Chancellor and Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Solicitors: Mr A. Forbes Watson, Plymouth; Wray Smith & Co for Trobridge, Plymouth.

Worthing Rugby Football Club Trustees v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Neill (Judgment March 26)

A football club that was an unincorporated association was, for tax purposes, an entity of assessment to which liability for corporation tax, land and development land tax attached.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the trustees of the Worthing Rugby Football Club against a decision of Mr Justice Peter Gibson (*The Times* December 15, 1986) [1987] 1 WLR 409 that assessments to development land tax made on the club itself were validly made.

During 1977 and 1978 the trustees, acting in accordance with the club's rules, sold the club ground for a total of £197,500. Subsequently the club was assessed to corporation tax in respect of chargeable gains on the sale and to development land tax.

Alternative assessments to

capital gains tax and development land tax were made on the trustees as individual assessors heard appeals against the assessments and confirmed in principle those made on the trustees and discharged those on the club.

Mr Justice Peter Gibson, deciding appeals by the trustees to set aside the assessments held that the club, although not held under the general law a legal entity, could be treated as an entity of assessment both for corporation tax and for development land tax purposes, with the result that it was the club itself and not the trustees or the individual members who were liable to charge.

Mr Philip Lawton, QC and Mr Edward Grayson for the trustees; Mr Christopher McCall for the Crown.

SIR NICOLAS BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the question was whether assessments to development land tax were properly made on the club, an unincorporated members' association, or should have been made on the members of the club. There was no appeal from the judge's decision so far as

corporation tax was concerned.

The Crown's case was that the sports ground had been vested in the club's trustees "for a person absolutely entitled against the trustees within the meaning of section 28(1)(a) of the Development Land Tax Act 1976: that the club through its management committee was entitled to direct the trustees how to deal with the land and therefore the case fell within section 28(3) of that Act on the footing that a person — namely the club — was absolutely entitled against the trustees, and that by virtue of the Interpretation Act 1889 "person" was to be taken as including any body of persons corporate or unincorporate.

It followed, the Crown submitted, that the sale of the

land, although made by the trustees, was by virtue of section 28(1)(a) to be treated as a disposal by the club.

The trustees accepted the whole of that argument save only for contending that there was a contrary intention in the 1976 Act that displaced the interpretation Act and which showed that an unincorporated association was not to be treated as a "person".

The Crown had shown the trustees' argument to be incorrect. The judge was correct in upholding the assessment on the club.

Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Neill agreed. Solicitors: Miller Parris, Worthing; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Club is assessable to land tax

Mixed goods are held in common

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd v Greenstone Shipping Co SA (Panama)

Where B wrongfully mixed the goods of A with goods of his own which were substantially of the same nature and quality, and they could not in practice be separated, the mixture was held in common, and A was entitled to receive out of it a quantity equal to that of his goods which went into the mixture, with any doubt as to that quantity being resolved in favour of A.

Furthermore, A was entitled to claim damages from B in respect of any loss he might have suffered, in respect of quality or otherwise, by reason of the admixture.

Mr Justice Staughton so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on March 18 in a reserved judgment when he dismissed the appeal of the receivers of a cargo of crude oil from the award of arbitrators, dated July 9, 1986, and upheld the award that the receivers were entitled to dam-

ages limited to US\$46,014 and they were entitled to all the pumpable oil on board the vessel.

The owners of the vessel on which the receivers' cargo was shipped had mixed that cargo with other crude oil belonging to the shipowners already on the vessel.

Mr JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that where it was known how much was contributed by the innocent party or even what the maximum quantity was that he could have contributed, and it was something less than the whole, it would be unjust that the whole should belong to him. In the present case, there was a hint that the owners engaged in wrong-doing, but they did not mix the cargo with their own oil for some commercial motive. There had to be one rule for all cases: those might vary between one where the shipowner deliberately mixed property with a view to stealing it, to another where he did so purely for convenience of carriage without any intention to harm anybody.

Usual behaviour inferred in seeking cause of accident

Cloves v National Coal Board

Where in a personal injuries action the evidence was unclear as to the actual cause of an accident but it was established that it was normal for disciplined behaviour to occur in circumstances which could have caused the accident, the judge was entitled to infer that that behaviour accounted for the accident.

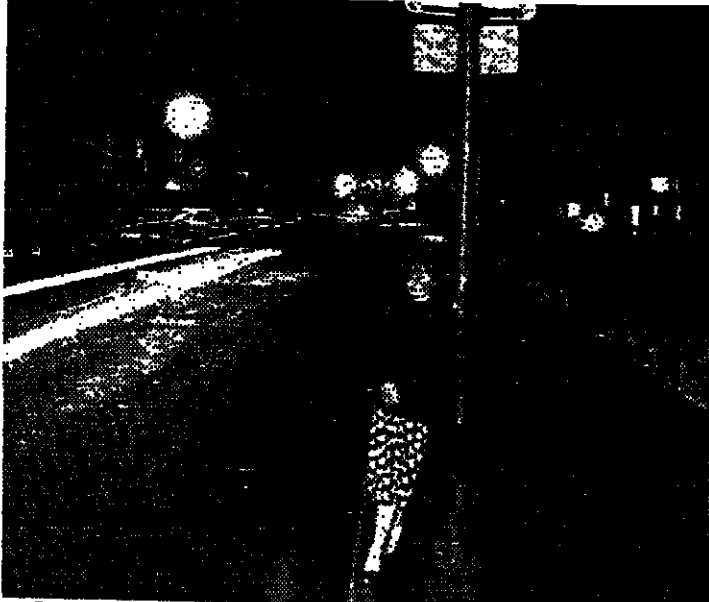
The Court of Appeal (Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Neill) so held on March 13, dismissing an appeal by the defendants, the National Coal Board, from Mr Justice Hutchinson who on March 13,

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

For hire: teenage bodies

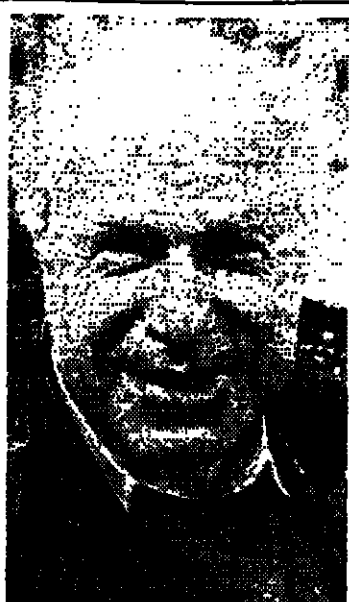
On the game: a prostitute plies for trade in *Street Girls*, Louise Panton's film for 40 Minutes (on BBC2, at 9.25pm)

Street Girls (BBC2, 9.25pm) is a quietly shocking film by Louise Panton about prostitutes, some as young as 13 and 14, who walk the streets of Birmingham. They are girls on the run, either from their families (usually because of brutal parents) or from their homes, desperate for money. They sell their bodies for up to £30 a time. One is the mother of a small baby. Another, Lorraine, who looks about 12 but is actually 19, is about to have her first brush with the law. The girls are regularly abused and beaten. One says that after her first customer, she felt dirty and used, and sat in a bath for hours on end. The villains are often the pimps, who terrorise the girls and pocket their money. Once on the game, it is difficult to get off it, though the programme

CHOICE

does offer two encouraging cases of girls who have kicked the habit and returned to their O levels. Channel 4 launches Britain's first regular late-night viewing slot with the TV premiere of 1900 (11.45pm). Bernardo Bertolucci's epic of Italian peasant life was made in 1976 with an international cast that includes Burt Lancaster, Sterling Hayden and Robert De Niro. The film is being shown in two parts, with the second half tomorrow at 11.35. To begin with, Channel 4's late night transmissions (up to 3am) will go out on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, extending to seven days of the week from early 1988. Peter Waymark

Peter Davalle writes: More an Aunt Sally than a hatchet job, Robert Cushman's anatomy of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Pillars of Society (Radio 4, 7.40pm) none the less draws blood. You would expect little else, given the highly emotive nature of the targets - commercial sponsorship, the Oxbridge influence, imperialism imposed by economic compulsion, an atmosphere of employee insecurity, paranoia on the executive top floor, an absence of self-criticism, and allegations of lying laid at the door of the Press. Appropriate to the documentary's theatrical ambience, there is even a touch of *Et tu, Brute!* to say an RSC actor who finds little to say in favour of its Barbanian home. Cushman is no fence-sitter either.



Peter Brook: Pillars of Society, on Radio 4, 7.40pm

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: 5.35pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.35-7.00 Gardening Together 11.40-12.05am Time and Place 12.05-12.10 News SCOTLAND: 10.40-11.00am Document 6.35pm-7.00 Reporting Scotland 11.40-12.00 On the Course 12.05-12.10 News IRELAND: 5.35-5.50pm 5.40 Today's Sport 6.40-6.50 Inside Ulster 6.55-7.00 The Personnel 6.55-7.00 Lady in Black 12.05am-12.10 News and weather BNL-LAND: 6.55pm-7.00 Regional news

ANGLIA As London except 8.25am Scrum Questions 10.20-10.30 Short Story 10.45-11.00am Cartoon 1.20pm-1.30 News 5.15-5.45 Connections 6.00-6.30 About Anglia 7.00-7.30 Anglian Sports 7.30-8.00 Who's the Boss? 10.30 Juggernaut Jamboree 11.20 Being Happy & What Matters Most 11.30 Hammer House of Horror 12.30am Life and Death. Closedown.

BORDER As London except 8.25am Scrum Street 10.25-11.00 Scrum Mr Twerp 1.20pm News 1.30-2.30 Scrum and Mr Twerp 3.00-3.30 Scrum 3.30-4.00 Scrum 4.00-4.30 Scrum 4.30-5.00 Scrum 5.00-5.30 Scrum 5.30-6.00 Scrum 6.00-6.30 Scrum 6.30-7.00 Scrum 7.00-7.30 Scrum 7.30-8.00 Scrum 8.00-8.30 Scrum 8.30-9.00 Scrum 9.00-9.30 Scrum 9.30-10.00 Scrum 10.00-10.30 Scrum 10.30-11.00 Scrum 11.00-11.30 Scrum 11.30-12.00 Scrum 12.00-12.30 Scrum 12.30-1.00 Scrum 1.00-1.30 Scrum 1.30-2.00 Scrum 2.00-2.30 Scrum 2.30-3.00 Scrum 3.00-3.30 Scrum 3.30-4.00 Scrum 4.00-4.30 Scrum 4.30-5.00 Scrum 5.00-5.30 Scrum 5.30-6.00 Scrum 6.00-6.30 Scrum 6.30-7.00 Scrum 7.00-7.30 Scrum 7.30-8.00 Scrum 8.00-8.30 Scrum 8.30-9.00 Scrum 9.00-9.30 Scrum 9.30-10.00 Scrum 10.00-10.30 Scrum 10.30-11.00 Scrum 11.00-11.30 Scrum 11.30-12.00 Scrum 12.00-12.30 Scrum 12.30-1.00 Scrum 1.00-1.30 Scrum 1.30-2.00 Scrum 2.00-2.30 Scrum 2.30-3.00 Scrum 3.00-3.30 Scrum 3.30-4.00 Scrum 4.00-4.30 Scrum 4.30-5.00 Scrum 5.00-5.30 Scrum 5.30-6.00 Scrum 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Wishing Botham a little peace

Peter Roebuck, the Somerset captain, expressed the wish yesterday that there should be a reconciliation between the county and Ian Botham, who he hopes might yet finish his career with the club.

Speaking at Somerset's Press day, Roebuck said: "Ian and I talked amicably enough during the winter and there are certainly no hard feelings here towards him. If he pops into the dressing-room we would make him feel at home and offer him a drink or two."

"I've always had the feeling that Ian would end his career here. He has a lot of friends here and I wonder if one day there could be a reconciliation. In the heightened emotion of the time friendships were broken. But it would be great if Ian could come back here and feel wanted. Personally I'd like to see it."

Roebuck also referred to the "ludicrous" way issues were portrayed as a straight confrontation between himself and Botham.

He felt there would be a total rebuilding process at the club under Brian Rose, the new cricket manager. "Off the field we have got to get things right, just as Essex and Nottinghamshire have done."

● The winners of this summer's Britannic Assurance County Championship will receive £25,000, an increase of £3,000 on last season. The runners-up will take £12,500; the third-placed team £6,500; fourth, £3,500; and fifth, £2,000. Total prize-money amounts to £70,500. There are also bonuses for each match win (£210), the county of the month (£750), the player of the month (£250), and the player of the championship (£500).

Gatting cuts the early dash in Lord's new year

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S, Essex, with nine first innings wickets in hand, are 274 runs behind MCC.

The first day of the Lord's season proved agreeably painless. For much of the time there was quite a warm sun (though there was a chill in the evening air) and a fair crowd saw Gatting make 111 out of an MCC total of 297 for five declared. By close of play Essex, in reply, were 23 for one.

In the hope of finding some early life in the pitch, Gooch chose to field, and in his opening spell, Foster removed MCC's opening pair, Metcalfe with the help of a good quick catch at short leg and Robinson to a break-back. Except when he was given something to clip away to leg, Robinson had rather a struggle.

The Essex bowlers were made to work hard for what else they got: hard that is, except when Morris and Whitaker got themselves out. The pitch by now was of the easiest pace and only the gentle bounce. The ball needed hitting, though, and that suited Whitaker and Gatting, as it would Morris had he stayed for longer.

There was not a better stroke all day than the one through extra cover off the back foot by Morris, the ball from Pringle being not that short. Morris was properly cross with himself when he was caught at the wicket in the last over of the morning, trying to hit the cover off Gooch's attempt at a short off-side flick. Whitaker, trying something similar against Foster not long after lunch, played on.

Gatting and Ontong knew

better. Ontong decided that if it turned out to be a hard grind, so be it on his first such representative chance, he was going to make 50 and he did. He batted for two hours and 40 minutes all told for his 63 not out.

Gatting was characteristically more assertive. His last first-class innings, in January, had been the 96 with which he came so near to winning the fifth Test in Sydney. Yesterday he hit 17 fours and

Roux of Sussex and Western Province, being fair and well-built and bowling mostly within himself. He should be suited by English conditions. The fastest bowling of the day came at the end, from Thomas and De Freitas.

The arrangements generally were such as to suggest that a repetition of last year, where not a ball was bowled in the whole of the corresponding match, was confidently expected. As if getting into the ground was not difficult enough, it was child's play compared to what the public had to go through to lay their hands on a lunchtime drink at the Tavern or the members on a luncheon sandwich in the Long Room bar. The Grand Stand was being repainted and half the Free Seats were closed.

As for the Mound Stand, it looks like a tented village, the roof being made of all sorts of things, or a pagoda in St John's Wood Road. The idea was to create something unlike anything else on the ground.

It is expected to be near enough to completion for the Duke of Edinburgh to open the week after next. Rather than bearing the name of Hendren or Hearn or Compton or another great Middlesex cricketer, it is to be known as the New Mound Stand. Other suggestions may not be long in coming.

Small injury fear
Gladstone Small, the England pace bowler, could miss the start of the county season because of an injury he sustained in Australia during the winter.

scored his second 50 in no time at all. Three skimming off drives played from well down the pitch off Childs took him to his hundred.

Having picked up some cheap wickets against Cambridge over the weekend, Page, Essex's acquisition from Transvaal, will have got better ideas of what to expect from the English game. Before you are sick and tired of hearing it, let me say he is the spitting image of Garth Le

ond to Anderlecht in the Belgian first division, have had Jones, aged 24, under scrutiny in recent weeks and on Easter Monday sent a top-level scouting delegation to check his form.

Jones, the third division's leading scorer with 31 goals, has attracted inquiries from a number of first division clubs and is valued at around £400,000 by the Port Vale, manager John Rudge.

● The Weymouth midfielder player, Tom Jones, is set to sign for Aberdeen this week. Jones, who is 21 and is a semi-professional England international, joined the Scottish premier division side on trial last week but was recalled by Weymouth for their GMC-Vauxhall conference Easter programme.

Preliminary negotiations to

set a transfer fee have begun and should Jones complete his move north of the border he will be the second former Weymouth player in the Scottish premier division. Graham Roberts became the first when he joined Rangers from Tottenham Hotspur.

● Norwich City yesterday signed the younger brother of Arsenal's England Under-21 player, David Rocastle, on schoolboy terms. Steve Rocastle, aged 16, decided against following his brother to Arsenal because he did not want to play in his shadow.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Moss on parade

Stirling Moss, returns to motor racing at Brands Hatch on May 3 behind the wheel of a 1963 BMW-powered MK7 Elva at the Cartier historic race meeting, which stages the second round of the European championship.

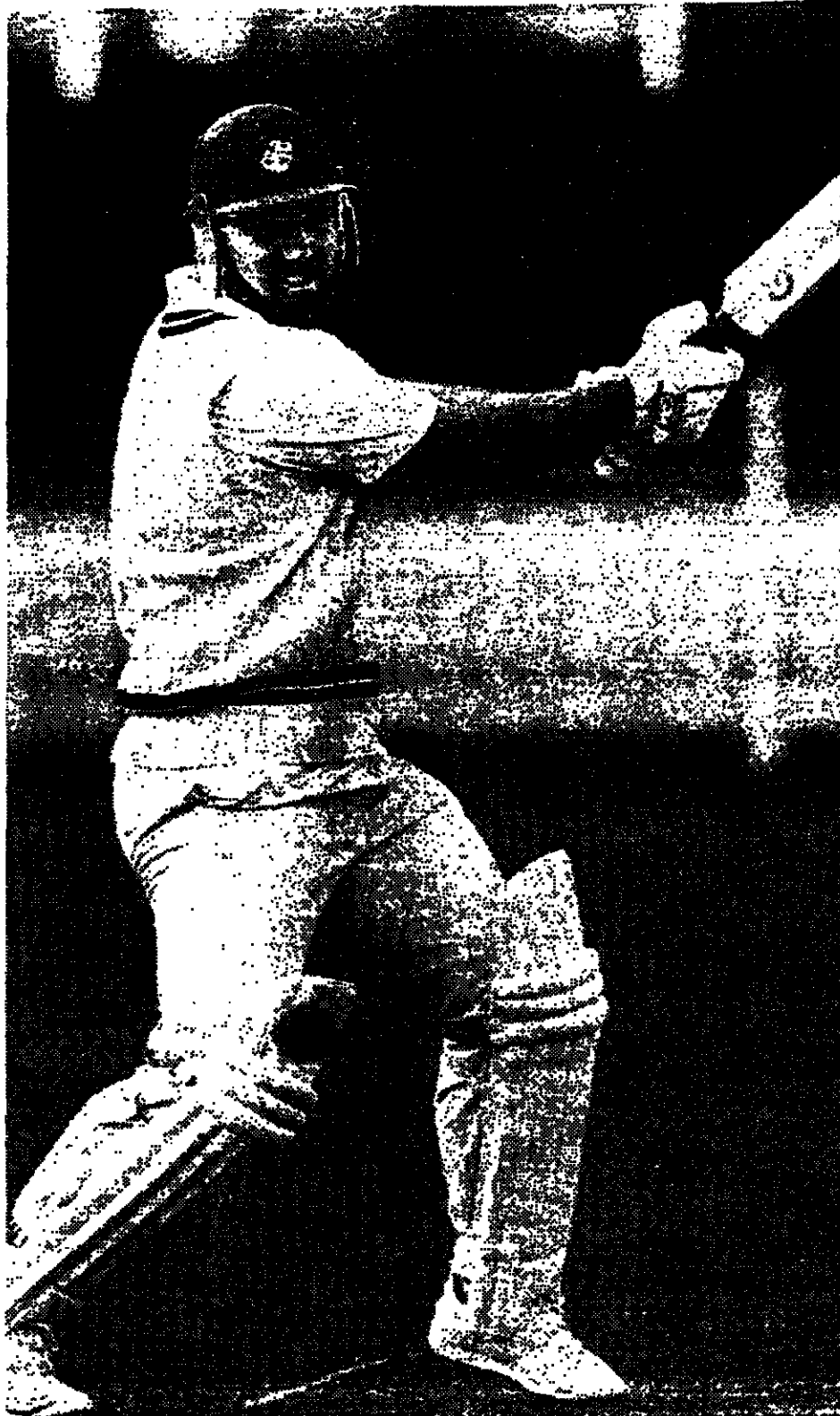
The 20-lap event on the 1.2-mile circuit is the event in the eight race Aston Martin owners club organized meeting, which brings together a priceless collection of machinery, including Brabhams, Lotuses and Merlins.

Cumbria post

Barry Smith, the former Whitehaven player, has become the second regional rugby league coach to be appointed in Cumbria — the eleventh appointment part-time regional coach under the national coaching scheme.

Dassu defends

Federica Dassu, the Italian golfer, chases her third successive Harlequins-Jaguar pro-am title at Richmond tomorrow — an event which raises money for Dr Barnardo's. The 30 leading women professionals and 90 amateurs play in teams of four.



Leading by example: Gatting on his way to a hundred at Lord's (Photograph by Ian Stewart)

Tour on verge of being called off

Colombo (AFP) — The New Zealand Cricket Council are to make a decision early today on whether to abandon their country's cricket tour of Sri Lanka.

After holding a meeting yesterday at their hotel, which is only two miles from where a bomb exploded on Tuesday killing over a hundred people, the New Zealand team decided they wanted to end the tour. This had followed discussions with senior Sri Lankan security officials, who had made assurances that their safety could be guaranteed.

Ken Deas, the team manager, said there was a "universal" feeling among the team that the tour should stop. "There is disquiet within the team, a reluctance on their part to carry on playing in present circumstances," he said.

He said Sri Lanka Cricket Board officials had asked to speak to the team to give their view of the situation. "I want the players to ask them the questions they are asking me and which I cannot answer. He said he had been in contact with Bob Vance, the New Zealand Cricket Council chairman.

But given the state of mind of the players, he said, "There is little point continuing the tour. That is the inevitable conclusion."

He said the players were divided yesterday about whether to go on to Kandy for the second Test match, which is due to start tomorrow. The tour, which began on April 11, is not scheduled to end until May 14.

Gamani Dissanayake, the Sri Lankan board president, has sent Don Smith, the national coach, to assure the team of their safety on the way to Kandy and while they are there.

Villa go in search of an act of faith

By Chris Moore

Faced with almost inevitable relegation, Aston Villa yesterday opened the door for any "unsent" player to leave Villa Park.

"I've already told the team that anyone who wants to leave can go," said Manager Billy McNeill. "I'm only interested in keeping players who are ready to give their all for us in future."

"In any case a lot of our players will soon be finding out how different life is going to be for them if we go down. The club needs completely restructuring and I am ready to make whatever changes that are necessary."

Villa's only hope of survival is to win their last four games — a tall order for a side that has been victorious only twice in its previous 28 matches — whereas defeat at West Ham United on Saturday would eff-

ectively consign them to the second division.

"We need a miracle," admitted acting captain Steve Hunt, who accepts the players must shoulder the blame for Villa's dramatic decline, despite having spent over £1 million on new signings last summer.

"Results don't lie," said Hunt. "We simply haven't functioned as a team this season. We were lucky to escape last year and didn't think it could happen to us again. But we started badly and were responsible for Graham Turner getting the sack. Sadly, things have got no better since then. The players are obviously very low at the moment. It's all very hard to swallow. But I will be one of the first into the manager's office at the end of the season to tell him that I'm totally committed to Villa's future."

● Port Vale's Welsh international forward, Andy Jones, is in line to follow his compatriots, Mark Hughes and Ian Rush, to the continent. Mechelen, who are sec-

Fenerbahçe confident that Atkinson will accept offer

The Turkish first division football club, Fenerbahçe, have offered Ron Atkinson, who was dismissed this season by Manchester United, the position of manager, a club executive said yesterday.

"He will be coming to Istanbul at the beginning of next week to discuss the post we offered him," Yusek Gunay, the deputy chairman of the Istanbul club, said. Club sources said Fenerbahçe planned to dismiss the Yugoslav, Branko Stankovic, as technical director, the Turkish equivalent of coach and manager.

Gunay said Atkinson had told him by telephone from Britain that he had also had contacts with a Spanish side, which he did not name. "But I have the impression that if we can agree on the monetary aspects, he may prefer Fenerbahçe," Gunay said.

Fenerbahçe are doing only moderately in the Turkish league. They are fifth, with 34 points, compared with the 44 points won by the leaders, Beşiktaş. Gunay said Atkinson was expected to travel to Turkey for next week's European championship qualifying match between Turkey and England.

● Port Vale's Welsh international forward, Andy Jones, is in line to follow his compatriots, Mark Hughes and Ian Rush, to the continent. Mechelen, who are sec-

ond to Anderlecht in the Belgian first division, have had Jones, aged 24, under scrutiny in recent weeks and on Easter Monday sent a top-level scouting delegation to check his form.

Jones, the third division's leading scorer with 31 goals, has attracted inquiries from a number of first division clubs and is valued at around £400,000 by the Port Vale, manager John Rudge.

● The Weymouth midfielder player, Tom Jones, is set to sign for Aberdeen this week. Jones, who is 21 and is a semi-professional England international, joined the Scottish premier division side on trial last week but was recalled by Weymouth for their GMC-Vauxhall conference Easter programme.

Preliminary negotiations to

set a transfer fee have begun and should Jones complete his move north of the border he will be the second former Weymouth player in the Scottish premier division. Graham Roberts became the first when he joined Rangers from Tottenham Hotspur.

● Norwich City yesterday signed the younger brother of Arsenal's England Under-21 player, David Rocastle, on schoolboy terms. Steve Rocastle, aged 16, decided against following his brother to Arsenal because he did not want to play in his shadow.

● Brian McDermott, the Oxford United winger, has been given a free transfer after moving from Arsenal in December 1984 for £40,000. He has made only 23 League appearances for Oxford.

Souness trip has tongues wagging

By Andrew Longmore

Two games took place at Vicarage Road on Tuesday night, the first was the derby, comfortably won by injury-hit Watford who completed the first double over Luton for 25 years, and the second was called: "Spot the manager and guess what he's doing."

First division manager spotters tallied Maurice Evans (Oxford United), Chris Nicholl (Southampton), George Graham (Arsenal) and Lennox Lawrence (Charlton Athletic) — quite apart from Gordon Milne (Leicester's chief executive) and Don Howe (no fixed team).

But Graeme Souness, the Rangers manager, attracted most comment because he has already raised these parts for one forward in Colin West and might well have been shopping for another in Mick Harford, or unsettled midfielder player, Ricky Hill, both of Luton. If these two or John Barnes, of England and Watford, was the reason for his journey, the name Souness should now have in his notebook is none of those, but that of Worrell Sterling.

Though a right-sided player, Sterling is being groomed to take over Barnes' mantle and his blistering left-foot drive from the edge of the penalty area just after half-time, which gave Watford a deserved lead,

had Barnes' stamp all over it. Six minutes later, Barnes, with a rare headed goal, from Richardson's cross, further translated Watford's superiority into goals, the only surprise being that they had taken so long and that by the end there were not more of them.

Blissett, who had been presented with a silver salver before the match to mark his club scoring record, could have added four to his tally but ended with none and Falco hit the bar twice — once in each half — as Luton were thrown back onto a defence which badly missed Foster.

Though Harford and Newell had good efforts saved by the much-criticized Sherwood in the opening 15 minutes Luton were disappointing. They were anonymous in midfield and gave Bardsley, playing at makeshift centre-half for Watford in the absence of both Simms and Terry, no undue alarm.

Watford have now won all their three games since their FA Cup semi-final defeat by Tottenham Hotspur 11 days ago and Graham Taylor, the manager, will reflect on his club's turnaround in fortune, particularly as before that traumatic day at Villa Park they had lost their previous three matches.

Ladbroke's split from Big Four

By John Goodbody

A crack yesterday appeared in the ranks of the Big Four bookmakers, who dominate Satellite Information Services (SIS), who from May 5 can beam racing into 10,200 betting shops.

Coralis agreed to join a working party of the National Greyhound Racing Club Racecourse Promoters Association (NGRCRA), which has been set up to recommend what fees to ask SIS for the televising of greyhound racing. But Ladbroke's abstained from voting at the meeting of the owners of Britain's 36 licensed tracks.

Both Ladbroke's and Coralis are major shareholders in SIS and also own four of the six tracks where afternoon racing takes place. In effect, Coralis will be helping to decide what money to demand from a company in which Coralis itself owns 10 per cent of the shares.

SIS could refuse to give the NGRCRA money, but this would bring it into open conflict with the sport's governing body and strengthen the argument that the Big Four — Ladbroke's, Coralis, William Hill and Mecca — are increasing their control over the sport.

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating the Big Four's role in both horse and greyhound racing. It has also been the subject of several questions in Parliament following articles in *The Times* two months ago. A debate in the House of Lords is scheduled for next week.

Coralis yesterday confirmed, in a brief statement, that it agreed to be part of the working party, but declined to comment any further. For the first time recently the Big Four do not appear to be in agreement, although Ladbroke's have reserved their position and can rejoin the other track owners when the working party has made its recommendations on June 3.

The working party will take effect from November 1. Until then, the six tracks operating afternoon racing will be able to make temporary arrangements with SIS for its televising facilities.

The two tracks, which have afternoon racing and are not run by the bookmakers themselves, are Hackney and Bristol and both have representatives on the working party. The NGRCRA want the money to develop facilities in a sport in which the annual total of spectators has dropped from 15 million to 3.8 million since 1961.

The working party consists of representatives of the major tracks, including Jarvis Astaire, Deputy Chairman of Wembley, as well as a representative of Coral Stadia Ltd. Its Chairman is John Coralis, a director of the Greyhound Racing Association group of tracks.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Trophy fever

Kidderminster Harriers, the FA Trophy finalists, have installed a special Wembley hotline to cope with the flood of inquiries from supporters hoping to make the trip to watch their team play Boston United on May 9. The Vauxhall Conference club's supporters booked 45 50-seater coaches within two days of their semi-final victory over Fareham Town and will run two special trains, each with a capacity of 500.

Call for Henry

Omar Henry, the first black cricketer to play for South Africa, has again been named in Scotland's team for the Benson and Hedges Cup as the selectors kept faith with the players who took the Scots to their first victory in seven attempts against Lancashire last season.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: R G Swan (Carlisle), N W Burns, J D Wright, D G Blair (all Aberystwyth), W R Davies (Teddington), F G Duffell (Greenock), O Henry (L. Phibs (both Stenhousemuir)), J E Kerr (West), A B Russell (Stirling County), R Scott (West Lothian), D I. Stanger (West of Scotland), A W J Stevenson (Crumpall).

Agar resigns

Allan Agar, the Bramley coach, has resigned from the second division rugby league club after steering them into Sunday's premiership play-offs. Agar joined Bramley in 1983, after guiding Featherstone Rovers to a Challenge Cup victory at Wembley in 1983.

Strong entry

Mark Bell, the British professional road race cycling champion, Paul Sherwin, the circuit race champion and Tony Doyle, the world pursuit champion, head the hundred entries for the Lancashire Enterprises Tour from May 1 to 4.

Scots face strong opposition

Scotland, attempting to win their third gold medal in the team event, will face world class opposition in the European karate championships in Glasgow next week.

France, silver medalists in the last world championships in Australia, have named a full strength team for the event which includes Emmanuel Pinda, the reigning European heavyweight champion, Pinda and London's Vic Charles, the reigning world champion, should dominate their weight category in the individual events.

England will also prove a threat to the Scots although they will be without the former world champion, Jeff Thompson, who has retired from the sport to take up hurdling.

Norway, a country that spends £100,000 annually to travel to competitions all over the world, is also fancied for a medal and reigning champions Spain cannot be discounted.

Scotland won the European title in 1973 and 1984 and include Pat McKay and Jim Collins, two former world champions, in their team this time.

Rift healed

Gloucester Rugby Club, who pulled their players out of county matches two seasons ago and since refused county matches at Kingsholm, have healed the rift with the county and will hold the fixture against Cornwall in November.

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Test series off
Bank changes

Bank changes
Open results

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